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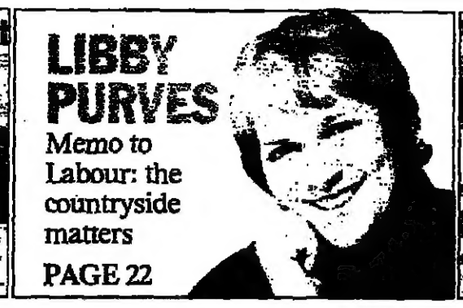

Britons die in Nile massacre

Terrorists open fire as tourists arrive at Valley of the Queens

By Christopher Walker and Emad Mekay

AT LEAST 69 foreign tourists, including two Britons, were killed yesterday when terrorists armed with machineguns opened fire on tour buses in Egypt's Valley of the Queens.

Six terrorists and three policemen were also reported to have died in a three-hour gunfight that followed the massacre outside the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.

A further 16 critically injured tourists were flown to a military hospital in Cairo, 300 miles away, and another five Britons were still unaccounted for last night.

The attack — believed to have been carried out by Islamic militants — was the bloodiest blow yet to President Mubarak's moderate regime and it threatened to devastate the country's £1.7 billion tourist industry.

Tour operators all over the world were last night considering whether to pull out of Egypt and companies with visitors already there were offering to fly them home early. The Foreign Office warned people to avoid Luxor, which is now under curfew, saying it could not guarantee their safety there.

Egyptian officials said that the attackers, wearing black clothes similar to those worn by police, had burst into the courtyard of the 3,400-year-old desert temple near Luxor shortly after 9am and started firing indiscriminately on tourists when they climbed out of their buses. As the tourists ducked for cover, police guarding the site fired back.

The terrorists then tried to hijack one of the tour buses when police reinforcements and the military arrived. The Interior Ministry said that one gunman was shot dead on the spot and the other five were killed when police chased the bus into hills near by — although other reports suggested that the terrorists had been "rounded up" or escaped to a cemetery. The ministry said that the police recovered six machineguns, two handguns and explosives.

Matthew Moyer, an American who was close to the carnage, said: "People ran to the tombs because they did not know where the shots were coming from. We saw one soldier run over an adjoining hill with his gun drawn. The shots continued for some time."

About half an hour after the shooting began, Mr Moyer added, "Soldiers showed up with AK47 rifles and what appeared to be grenade launchers and went up into the surrounding hills and we heard shots continuing after that."

Franz Kosseler, an Austrian tourist who was a few hundred yards away, said: "First thing we heard was strong shooting for something like half an hour. It came and went sporadically. Our tour guide said it was pigeon hunting. Then later police said it was two families feuding. Then finally policemen rushed us into a nearby temple where we had to hide for over 40 minutes. They told us it was a terrorist attack. We later saw at least 30 policemen rushing to the temple. It was all very chaotic."

Officials were unable to identify all of the tourist victims as many had left their passports at their hotels, but the Swiss Embassy in Cairo reported that 25 were Swiss, nine were Japanes, seven Germans, two British and a Bulgarian were among the dead. The Foreign Office confirmed that two Britons had been killed and there were reports that a third had died. Four others were either missing or unaccounted for.

Luxor is used both as a base for tourists visiting the Pharaonic tombs in the Valleys of the Kings and Queens on the west bank of the Nile and as a starting point for Nile cruises. About 250 boats are cruising the river at any one time, and many have shifted their base to Luxor from Cairo because of fears of attacks there.

Yesterday's attack came as the Egyptian tourism minister, Dr Mamdouh El Beltagui, was in London trying to boost the number of Britons visiting his country. He said: "We ar shocked and we feel sorrow about what has happened today. I can't predict what is going to happen about tourism, but our Government is doing all it can to ensure travellers' safety."

But even as he spoke, tour operators were making arrangements to pull their customers out. Saga Holidays, which caters for the over-50s, said it was bringing all clients out of the country and cancelling its flights to Eygypt until further notice. Forty of its travellers were being flown to Cairo last night to await a flight to Heathrow tomorrow.

Thomson, which has 1,300 tourists in Egypt, said it was cancelling its three flights to the country tomorrow and was bringing home early anyone who did not want to stay. Thomas Cook said: "Anyone who wants to leave will be flown home early and anyone due to travel can get their money back or transfer to another destination."

Up until yesterday, 34 foreigners had been killed in the terror campaign designed to force President Mubarak to accept the Islamic code Sharia. The deadliest attack was in April last year when 18 Greek tourists, who were mistaken for Israelis, were killed near the Pyramids of Giza.

Blow to Mubarak, page 16
Leading article, page 23

REUTER

Egyptian soldiers carry away the body of one of the six terrorists who were killed in their three-hour gun battle at the Temple of Hatshepsut

18,000 women recalled for new tests

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

THE accuracy of cervical smear tests was again in question last night after 18,000 women were warned that more than 3 per cent of them could wrongly have been given the all-clear.

This latest case comes from the pathology department of the Hospital of Saint Cross at Rugby in Warwickwichire. A random check on 500 tests taken between January, 1995, and April of this year has discovered that 16 of the women should have been recalled because of abnormalities discovered on their slides.

This is the eighth case of failure by the smear test service since it was set up in 1988 and follows a damning report last month of incompetence by the service at Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Instead of seeing 15,000 slides a year — as recommended under government guidelines — the Rugby unit was having to look at only 7,500. As a result the staff lacked the necessary practice at spotting the abnormalities.

Warwickshire Health Authority decided in May to move all the screening work to the Walgrave Hospital in Coventry and to carry out a random test of 500 slides from among the women who had been to the Rugby hospital over the previous three years.

This showed a worryingly high number of abnormalities had been missed so yesterday the decision was taken to reassess all 18,000. The reassessment is expected to take about three months.

"The vast majority of them are certain to be all right," a spokesman said. Women may call a 24-hour helpline on 0800 783 0520.

MPs to question Jowell over ban

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, will come under fire from a Commons watchdog over the decision to exempt Formula One from the EU tobacco sponsorship ban. MPs on the European Legislation Committee will interrogate her before deciding whether the issue should be debated in the Commons. Page 2

Russian allies

Shell and BP yesterday announced alliances with Russian partners worth $1.7 billion and aimed at developing huge gas reserves in Siberia Page 29

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Tories say league tables vindicate their policy

By John O'Leary and David Charter

TORIES claimed that their educational policies had been vindicated yesterday as categories of school created by the last Government in the teeth of Labour hostility dominated tables of those that had most improved.

Four city technology colleges appear in the 20 most improved schools in tables published today, while a third of those whose scores have risen for three successive years are grant maintained. Legislation to be introduced in the next few weeks will abolish grant maintained status.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, singled out three of the most-improved local authority schools for special praise and Ministers stressed the value to parents of listing more than one year's results.

But Stephen Dorrell, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said the tables showed that grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges were among the best performing schools in England.

"Why does Mr Blunkett insist on destroying the grant-maintained system when the evidence points so unambiguously to its success?"

Of the 4,000 schools, 240 have shown increased GCSE scores every year since 1994. Seventy-four of those are grant maintained, although the sector represents less than a quarter of secondary schools. Harris City Technology College, Upper Norwood, south London, has shown the most improvement over the period, while three of the 15 CTCs also appear near the top of the improvement table.

Senior government sources denied any embarrassment over the composition of the list. "This is a good cross-section of schools of all categories in all areas of the country. Of course a representative proportion will be GM schools."

And opponents of Tory policy said the success of CTCs and grant maintained schools reflected the extra funding they received from the last Government and covert selection policies adopted by many schools. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Local authority schools have not had a level playing field on which to compete with CTCs and grant maintained schools."

Other unions said the tables were misleading because they took no account of schools' intakes. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the tables were "dangerously unreliable" and regretted that the Government had persisted with a system of measurement which did not identify the best or worst GCSE results.

Almost 100 schools, three-quarters of them independent, saw all their candidates pass five high-grade GCSEs. Of them, Withington Girls' School, in Manchester, registered the highest A-level score.

Buckinghamshire, which still runs a grammar school system, tops the local authority table for the first time, after splitting from Milton Keynes Council in the Local Government Review in April.

The most improved local authority is the east London borough of Newham.

Leading article, page 23
Photograph, page 28
Supplement

"I'm happy with the school tables, it's the Premiership table I think is unreliable"

MI5 reveals secrets of the spies

CLASSIFIED MI5 files released yesterday describe how German spies used simple lemon juice and eau de cologne as "invisible" ink (Michael Evans writes). They even put a secret message on the skin of a Belgian woman.

The documents, the first MI5 files to be published in the organisation's 88-year history, were released by the Public Record Office at Kew. They underline the serious threat posed by German spies before and during the First World War. But MI5, then a tiny group broke up their network.

The files reveal that one spy had special codenames for warships — "Pirates of Penzance" for destroyers, and "Modern Eve" for new small cruisers. Another spy called battleships "Dutch cheese".

The files also reveal how Sinn Fein plotted to help German troops and arms land on the west coast of Ireland at the end of the war.

Farcical secrets, page 13

City high-flyer prepares to turn from Mammon

By Damian Whitworth

WHERE St Francis led, one of the City's highest-flying young executives is to follow. Jim O'Donnell, chief executive officer at HSBC James Capel, is to forsake the riches of an international stockbroking career to become a priest.

Mr O'Donnell, 36, a towering former American football player and native of New York, astonished colleagues when a memo announcing his career change was circulated yesterday.

"There was general disbelieving laughter. He is hardly known for being spiritual," said one.

The man himself was reluctant to discuss whether, like St Francis, his new life of poverty and prayer had followed a vision or if he had been thinking long and hard on Matthew's words about camels, eyes of needles, rich men and the Kingdom of Heaven.

The average earnings of a Catholic priest in the United States are $10,000 (£5,880) a year, although board and lodging and a car are also provided. Mr O'Donnell now earns up to £1 million a year, including bonuses, so if he has wisely invested some of that — as he of all people should have done — he is unlikely to be too hard up. Mr O'Donnell cheerfully referred callers to a spokeswoman yesterday. "He is to pursue a vocation in the Catholic priesthood," she said. "It's a very personal decision."

Mr O'Donnell will relinquish his London post as chief executive of the equities division of the company, which is owned by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, at the end of next month.

He will then give up transatlantic hopping to continue as chief executive officer of HSBC Markets Inc in New York until next summer when his religious career will begin in earnest, probably in America. "He's a giant," said Krishna Patel, his deputy, who will take over in the hot seat. "But he's a very gentle giant."

Bernard Asher, his chairman, said he would be sad to lose him. "But I am not losing him in the sense that one loses people to competitors or industry and so on.

"To lose someone to the church is rather unique. I think it is rather a tribute to have people working for you who have the strength of character to decide to go into the church."

هكذا من الاصل

Finding the right punchline for an ethics girl

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Madam Speaker, cried Simon Hughes, MP, yesterday, opening a Liberal Democrat-inspired debate on something or other. "We are the people's *constructive* Opposition."

MPs headed in droves for the gangways and exits in a kind of panic; journalists followed. If there is one thing worse than name-calling and vulgar abuse (which of course all MPs deplore) it is constructive opposition. All of us are in favour of reasonable debate, so long as we do not have to listen to it; and to voice the word "reasonable" in the Commons chamber produces a similar effect to shouting "fire" in a crowded theatre.

Happily, the session preceding Mr Hughes's debate positively bristled with anger, ambush, fear and loathing — and that was just between social security ministers in the same government. Principal protagonists in this puff-adders' nest are Harriet Harman, Secretary of State, and Frank Field, her Minister of State.

Something about the Social Security Secretary's karma whispers terror.

One way the merciless Field likes to terrorise his prey is to copy the technique of snake stalking bird. Yesterday, Field never uttered, nor moved, until more than halfway through the session. He scarcely seemed to breathe, but stared immobile and unblinking in her direction. Once, after about half an hour of this war of nerves, Field suddenly did move. I saw Harman flinch. But he was bluffing. He moved only to fetch himself a glass of water; then returned to his noiseless, serpentine vigil.

As a bird can be petrified by this icy aggression, so Harriet Harman seemed somewhat hypnotised, trance-like, as she spoke. Yesterday, with Field eyeballing remorselessly, her chirrup took a desperate edge. This may explain why she began intoning, like a mantra, the same eight words. Over and over again, in a sort of chant, she droned, "Reforming-the-welfare-state-around-the-work-ethic".

We began waiting for the little *ting* on a bell, employed by adherents of the Shinto religion, apparently to bring the thing they chant for.

Richard Spring (C, W Suffolk) asked about help for the disabled.

"... reforming-the-welfare-state-around-the-work-ethic" chanted Miss Harman. *Ting* we thought. *Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover)* called Labour's promise to stick to Tory spending plans a kind of "two-year quarantine" for socialism. "... reforming-the-welfare-state-around-the-work-ethic", chanted Harman. *Ting*.

Christopher Chope (C, Christchurch) mentioned single mothers "... reforming-the-welfare-state-around-the-work-ethic", chanted Harman. *Ting*.

She is not the only culprit. Gordon Brown keeps grunting "an-end-to-the-economics-of-boom-and-bust" (9 words) while Tony Blair is much given to "education-[housing/health or whatever] for-the-many-and-not-the-few" (eight words).

Ting; Ting.

Maybe the Government has embraced Shintoism, believing that to achieve their heart's desire all they need do is announce a review, then start chanting the appropriate eight or nine-word mantra over and over again — until the thing just happens, of its own accord.

Bafflement settles. Upon Madam Speaker it is closer to fury. Yesterday, asked by Norman Baker (Lib Dem, Lewes) how to persuade ministers to make announcements affecting his constituents in the chamber rather than Sunday newspapers, Miss Boothroyd deplored the habit angrily. He should put down a question at once, "seeking information as to how and why".

"It would be helpful to *me* in what I'm trying to do," she added with passion.

EU presses ahead with euro council

Brushing aside Britain's doubts, 11 member states voted to set up a body to help to bring in monetary union, reports **Charles Bremner**

THIERRY CHARLIER/AP

Gordon Brown with Theo Waigel, German Finance Minister, who said Britain would not be cut out of decisions

BRITAIN and three smaller EU states were given a glimpse yesterday of life outside the single currency when the other 11 countries ignored their objections and pushed ahead with plans for a new council to manage the euro.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and finance ministers from Sweden, Denmark and Greece received a polite hearing when they complained about their Governments' likely exclusion from the new euro council, a body in which the countries due for monetary union plan to co-ordinate their policy. Though theoretically informal, the forum is likely to become a power centre, sapping the authority of the full 15-member Ecofin council.

Ministers reassured the outsiders that Ecofin would remain the forum for official business and lawmaking and they promised to keep them informed. However it was made clear that the best they could hope for was an observer's seat.

France took the strongest line against against the "outs". Dominique Strauss Kahn, the Finance Minister, said all 11 likely euro members backed the creation of a council. "Whatever happens, it will come about, so it is better that we do it in an organised framework," he said.

The non-member four were "wrong to feel excluded", he said. Non-members on the verge of joining monetary union should be given special association, he said but the rules he proposed would exclude Britain unless it signed up to the exchange-rate mechanism or took steps to join the currency at a set date in the near future.

Mr Brown put his case to Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, in a private meeting, and won an assurance that Britain would not be cut out of decision-making. The Germans also said Britain would obviously have no vote when it came to running policy in the euro zone.

The Chancellor played down the skirmish, saying the "nobody pushed any proposals today to a final conclusion ... I am quite satisfied that we are in a strong position to protect British interests."

The Scandinavian ministers took a sharper line, denouncing the euro council as a dangerous scheme that could divide the EU. Marianne Jelved, the Danish minister, said there was no provision in the Maastricht treaty for the new body. "I fear the consequences will be a splitting of the union," she said.

The 15 ministers hope to settle the council squabble before next month's EU summit in Luxembourg. Further clearing the way for the euro, they agreed yesterday that the currency's notes and coins would be introduced on January 1, 2002. This was the last possible date set by EU leaders in 1995. The ministers also approved a final design for the coins after restoring Greek, Spanish and Danish islands that had not figured on the original etching on one side of the coins. "You need a magnifying glass to see them, but they're all there," said Philippe Maystadt, the Belgian minister.

The finance ministers were close to agreement last night on a package of job-creating policies that EU leaders will launch at a summit in Luxembourg on Friday. Mr Brown hailed the summit package as a largely British-inspired effort that would create a "major breakthrough in the way that Europe looks at employment".

Rebel MP renews his threat to Hague

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

WILLIAM HAGUE was facing a renewed threat of defection from Tory ranks over the single currency last night. The pro-Europe MP Peter Temple-Morris intends to tell local party workers that he will not be a Conservative candidate at the next election unless Mr Hague drops his opposition to the euro.

Mr Temple-Morris's threat came as a Tory peer who chaired one of the Conservatives' most influential think-tanks defected to the Liberal Democrats. Lord Thomas of Swynnerton who, as Hugh Thomas, headed the Centre for Policy Studies for 11 years until 1990, said that he had become "ill at ease" with the party's policy on economic and monetary union. He said the party's attitude to the EU had "become ever more critical and sceptical".

Mr Temple-Morris will also tell his party in Leominster that if the Tories pursue a rabidly anti-European stance for the rest of this Parliament, he will resign the Tory whip and sit as an "Independent One-Nation Conservative". Last month Mr Temple-Morris only pulled back from defecting to Labour after a supportive intervention by Michael Heseltine.

Letters, page 23

Jowell faces censure over tobacco decision

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TESSA JOWELL faces criticism tomorrow from a Commons watchdog over the Government's decision to exempt Formula One from the European Union's tobacco sponsorship ban.

MPs on the European Legislation Committee intend to interrogate the Public Health Minister on Britain's position on the EU directive before deciding whether the issue should be debated in the Commons. The move came as it emerged that the Government is now considering a compromise over the Formula One exemption which has provoked the most damaging political row since the election.

Health ministers are determined to ensure EU-wide agreement for a tobacco sponsorship ban at the next meeting of the council of ministers on December 4, but Britain's present position is for an indefinite exemption for Formula One. Whitehall officials indicated yesterday that ministers may agree instead to an exemption of seven or even five years in order to save the directive.

"There is still two and a half weeks to go before the meeting next month," one official said. "Padraig Flynn [the EU Social Affairs Commissioner] made clear that he would not agree to a total exemption. But we hope to reach a common position on December 4."

Jowell: faces questions from committee of MPs

Health officials have been talking to their European counterparts over the past few weeks in an attempt to reach agreement. But they point out that the directive is still being blocked by a minority of countries including Germany, Greece, Denmark, the Netherlands and Austria, which have different negotiating positions.

If agreement is reached in December the EU directive would not come into effect until October 2001. Sports would then be given a further two years to replace their tobacco sponsors.

It is widely expected that the Labour dominated Commons European legislation committee will press for a Commons debate on tobacco sponsorship before the council of health ministers meeting on December 4.

The 16-member committee will Ms Jowell tomorrow over three key issues: whether a tobacco advertising ban goes against the objectives of a single market; what the full text of the directive is; and how the Government justifies its argument that 50,000 jobs are at risk.

Mr Jowell technically needs clearance from the committee before she can officially agree a deal over the EU directive on tobacco advertising next month. The committee has a duty to examine all draft laws from Brussels on behalf of Parliament. If they are unsatisfied with Ms Jowell's reason for the Formula One exemption, they can refuse to give the Minister clearance to sign up to the directive. The committee can then demand a full debate in the House or in committee before any deal is done.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospitals cut back as debts mount up

More than half the 120 health authorities in Britain expect to end the financial year in debt, despite the extra £300 million the Government found for them last month, according to a survey by the NHS Confederation.

In order to try to make ends meet, 75 per cent of the overspending authorities are planning to cut services and 18 per cent are being forced to close hospital wards or units. In 46 per cent of hospitals, waiting times for non-emergency operations have been extended to the maximum 18 months.

Treasury post

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has appointed John Major's former press secretary to a Treasury post. Gus O'Donnell is to be director of the Treasury's macroeconomic policy and prospects directorate. He replaces Sir Alan Budd, who has retired.

Fees campaign

The Government is spending more than £400,000 on a publicity campaign to end confusion over the introduction of £1,000 university tuition fees. Students and parents will be advised to call a telephone advice line or apply for an information leaflet.

Hospital pays

Carolann Paul, from Aberdeen, whose daughter Michelle, 15, died of liver failure after taking Ecstasy two years ago, won an out of court settlement from Aberdeen Hospital NHS Trust which treated Michelle. It did not accept liability for her death.

Quick brief

Clients will be able to brief barristers without first paying for a solicitor under a pilot scheme launched today. The Bar Council's 12-month project involves seven advice bureaux, including Shelter, the housing charity, and 18 sets of chambers.

£6m for estate

An estate in the Cairngorms foothills has been sold for an estimated £6 million to a Danish company. Danstrup Lund Holdings was confirmed as the buyer of the 42,000-acre Glenfeshie estate, where Landseer painted *Monarch of the Glen*.

Heart pioneer

Billy Daine, 59, has left Papworth Hospital in Cambridgeshire 48 hours after becoming the first patient outside America to be given an operation where a tiny laser gun, inserted by a catheter, blasts the heart with beams to assist blood flow.

Data charge

Simon Regan, publisher of the satirical magazine *Scallywag*, has appeared before magistrates in London charged with illegal possession of computer files containing personal information belonging to Michael Portillo, the former Defence Secretary.

Go-to-jail card

The first prisoners arrived at Parc prison, near Bridgend, South Wales, where each inmate is to be issued with a swipe card holding personal details. Computers control security. If the system and its back-ups all crash, then keys will be used.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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Peacekeeper 'came home to kill'

A squadron leader is accused of murdering his wife then faking a car crash because he had fallen for his interpreter in Bosnia. Michael Horsnell reports

IT LOOKED like an horrific car accident when a squadron leader's wife died during an evening out with her husband after he had returned from peacekeeping duties in Bosnia. Carol Tucker, 52, was found face down in a river. Her husband lay near by with a minor wound on his forehead.

But the accident near their home at Honington, Suffolk, was faked, a court was told yesterday. Nicholas Tucker had first strangled his wife then left her in the water, because he had been having an affair with a blonde interpreter half his age during his service in the war zone.

Unknown to his family, he had made a secret trip to London during his Bosnian service, bringing his young mistress for a stay at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly, the jury was told.

David Stokes, QC, for the prosecution, told Norwich Crown Court said that, even when Mr Tucker, 46, was on bail accused of murder, he had booked an air ticket for Dijana Dudokovic, 21, to fly from Belgrade to Zurich. Mr Stokes said: "The Crown's case is he murdered his wife as he was infatuated by a much younger woman with whom he had been carrying on an illicit affair. So intense was it, it affected the operational effectiveness of his team."

Squadron Leader Tucker denies murder. He has a daughter, Vanessa, 19, and son James, 15, and was assigned to Bosnia as a UN military observer in January 1995 on a six-month tour of duty which he sought to have extended. There was no fighting where he was stationed in the northern sector of the war zone, with a Royal Marine officer and two interpreters, including Miss Dudokovic.

Bertrand du Pasquier: said to have seen letters

Mr Stokes said that, on June 15, 1995, Miss Dudokovic was granted a visa to visit Britain. A letter written by Squadron Leader Tucker on a United Nations Protection Force notepaper supported her application, guaranteeing that he would accept responsibility for her and that she would stay at his home.

But after flying from Belgrade to Heathrow, she stayed with him at the RAF Club where the couple were spotted by a colleague, Flight Lieutenant Geraldine Morris, who told the court that the Squadron Leader Tucker did not respond to her smile: "He was with a woman in her 20s, five feet eight or five feet nine, very slim, very attractive with long, blonde curly hair."

He returned to Bosnia and then came home again. During that time, he had been to see a doctor and complained of "genital discomfort". He said that he had last had sex two weeks earlier with his Serbian girlfriend. Prior to that, he had not had sex for two years.

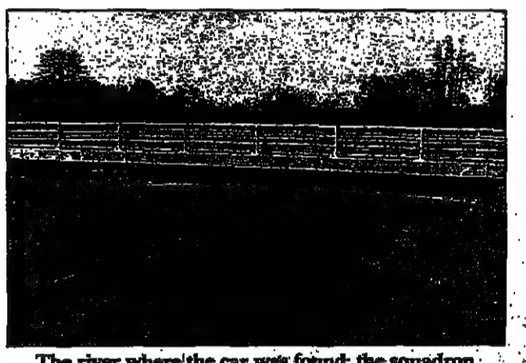
Mr Stokes said: "During that time he made a number of telephone calls to Bertrand du Pasquier in Geneva, who was accommodating Miss Dudokovic at his address, and he saw letters proclaiming love from this defendant for this girl. It may be his feelings were not reciprocated and she may have been using him. That is the way of the world."

On July 21, 1995, the day his wife was to die, the squadron leader had allegedly made a 38-minute telephone call to his mistress after Mrs Tucker had left for work at a garage. That evening, he took his wife to the Red Lion at Icklingham — "a curious choice," said Mr Stokes, because Mrs Tucker was not impressed by the establishment.

The couple allegedly left the pub at 10pm, though it could have been earlier, and there was a gap between their departure and the discovery of their Ford Fiesta in the River Lark by the A110.

Squadron Leader Tucker was later to tell police that he swerved to avoid deer on the road. "The prosecution case is that the defendant deliberately drove his car into the river," said Mr Stokes.

According to the squadron leader, he swerved at 50 miles an hour, but an accident investigating officer estimated the speed at 10 miles an hour. A cyclist saw the car at about 10.40pm and alerted police. Minutes later, he and a motorist heard a groaning sound, and found the husband lying outside the car with his head just above the water. When they pulled him clear he was shouting 'Carol, Carol.' His wife's body was found submerged under the bridge.



The river where the car was found: the squadron leader put his speed at 50mph. Police said 10mph

ALBAN DONOHOE

Nicholas Tucker: the court heard he did not return the smile of a female comrade when she saw him with blonde

Later, at West Suffolk Hospital, the court was told, a police officer heard Squadron Leader Tucker crying out: "If only I hadn't told her to jump."

Mr Stokes told the jury that the defendant could not explain how his blood was on the passenger side door and by the rear passenger window. David Harrison, a Home Office pathologist, found bruising on the dead woman's chest consistent with finger pressure, grip marks, abrasions and pinpoint haemorrhages in the eyes consistent with asphyxia. Mr Stokes said: "She was put into the river by her husband, but before he did so he applied pressure to her neck. Whether that rendered her unconscious cannot be ascertained."

Squadron Leader Tucker was arrested on August 18 — six days after he had drawn 1,000 German Marks in cash from a bank, and after he had contacted both the Immigration Advisory Service and the Refugee Legal Centre on an asylum matter. Released on bail, he made inquiries on December 18, 1995, at a travel agency where, using the false name of Jack Drayer, he was said to have bought a £421 return air ticket for Miss Dudokovic to fly from Belgrade to Zurich.

The case continues today when the jury will visit the scene of the crash.

Banks in row over Jamaica match at Wembley

By John Goodbody and Matt Dickinson

TONY BANKS, the Minister for Sport, was at the centre of another political dispute yesterday when it was claimed that he had promised to arrange a friendly match at Wembley next spring between England and Jamaica, who qualified for the World Cup finals for the first time on Sunday.

The Football Association said yesterday that England would not be playing Jamaica, whose team are known as the Reggae Boyz, before the finals in France. However, the FA said it would "certainly bear them in mind" as opponents over the following two years.

Jamaican officials said that Mr Banks had promised the fixture when he was in Trinidad with the FA last month, attempting to get backing for England's attempt to stage the 2006 World Cup.

A spokeswoman for England's campaign denied that the decision had damaged the bid. She said: "It has not harmed it, but this was not an issue in any case."

As Jamaica's 2.5 million inhabitants celebrated a public holiday yesterday to mark the team's triumph, Rene Simoes, the coach, said: "A member of our federation met the English delegation in Trinidad. They discussed the possibility of a friendly at Wembley in the spring, provided we had qualified for the World Cup.

"Obviously we would love to play at Wembley and maybe, with many Jamaicans in England, they can apply some pressure on the FA. We shall just have to wait and see. We are coming to Europe for the World Cup draw next month and we have many offers of games to discuss."

A spokesman for the minister said: "Mr Banks did not say that he could make it happen, but that he could pass on details to the FA. It is obviously not in the minister's power to arrange England games. It's in the hands of the FA, and it has a lot of requests from teams wanting to play England."

World Cup, pages 52, 56

Briton shot in Bahamas for sake of a gold chain

Robbers killed tourist as he left island restaurant, reports Emma Wilkins

A BRITISH businessman was shot dead in front of his wife during a street robbery while on holiday in the Bahamas.

Jonathan Porton, 41, was killed by robbers who took only a small gold chain, according to his wife, Shelley. Mr Porton, his wife and another couple were attacked by two armed, masked robbers as they left the Stone Crab restaurant in Freeport, Grand Bahama on Thursday. He was shot in the heart at close range as he tried to protect the other couple.

Mr Portman, whose family owned businesses in the North East of England, was born in Leeds and went to Thornhill School in Sunderland. His body was flown to Leeds yesterday.

The Portons, who emigrated to Portugal 11 years ago, had two children, Hayley, 15 and Daniel, 12. Mrs Porton flew to Britain at the weekend with her children after the murder.

The children were staying on Grand Bahama with their parents and Mr Porton's mother, Josephine, but did not see the shooting.

Mrs Porton said: "We were getting into the car when two men in balaclavas told us to hand over our money and valuables. It was horrific. Jonathan went to help one of our friends who was struggling with the robbers. He pushed him back and shot him in the heart. They then tried to force us back into the car and drive off with us inside. But instead they ran off. All they took was a gold chain.

"My children are devastated and I have no idea what we are going to do. I have lost one of the most precious things to me, for a small gold chain. It seems so senseless and cruel."

Mr Porton was a well-known businessman in the North East, where his family owned Lerman's, a toy company. When his uncle, Leonard Lerman, retired in 1986, Mr Porton left Britain for Val de Loba, Portugal.

A former Durham county squash player, Mr Portman opened a squash club in the Algarve and developed a chain of eight restaurants called Julia's Beach.

Jonathan Jackson, 45, Mr Portman's cousin, said: "He was a lovely man, larger than life, and had so many friends. I don't know how his family will cope, it's tragic."

John Rolles, Commissioner of Police in Freeport, said he wanted to reassure visitors that attacks on tourists were extremely rare. "It was an isolated and random incident. The Bahamas is a peaceful and beautiful place. Like any other city we have our problems but we look after tourists. They are welcome here.

"The victim was not targeted as a tourist. There were other people in the restaurant — natives and tourists — it just so happened that the robbers were there when these people came out," he said.

The Foreign Office said there was no particular travel advice for British holidaymakers visiting the Bahamas because the islands had no history of violence towards tourists.

Jonathan and Shelley Porton were attacked by robbers as they left a restaurant

Tearful fiancé threw ring in sea

By Simon de Bruxelles

A DISGRUNTLED bachelor whose fiancée forgot his birthday appeared in court yesterday after he took her £2,000 diamond engagement ring and threw it into the sea.

Simon Bills-Holland, 32, was charged with theft. But a judge took pity on him after hearing that he was still paying for the 18-carat gold ring. The court heard that Bills-Holland, an engineer, became upset when Rita Seamark forgot his birthday.

Nicola Harris, for the prosecution, said: "He visited Miss Seamark on his birthday and had plans for the day. It was apparent that she had forgotten his special day and he became upset. He took the engagement ring from her jewellery box and left. Miss Seamark noticed he seemed to be sad. She later discovered the ring was missing."

Cardiff Crown Court was told that Bills-Holland drove to a cliff top at Lavernock, South Glamorgan, where he broke down in tears. He threw the ring, encrusted with 14 diamonds, into the Bristol Channel. Miss Seamark, 33, called the police, saying the ring had been stolen, and Bills-Holland was arrested. He confessed to taking it, saying he was desperately upset about his forgotten birthday. Police divers searched for it, but to no avail.

Bills-Holland, of Barry, South Glamorgan, admitted theft. He was given a conditional discharge by Judge Michael Gibbon and ordered to pay £30 costs. The court heard that the couple had broken off their engagement.

After the hearing, Bills-Holland said: "I've had enough of the female of the species for now. This has taught me a lesson."

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Clegg was convicted over wrong bullet, appeal told

Protesters removed from hearing as paratrooper makes his third appeal over girl he shot dead in stolen car, reports Martin Fletcher

LEE CLEGG, the paratrooper convicted of murdering a teenage joyrider in Belfast, was found guilty on the evidence of the wrong bullet, it was claimed yesterday.

As the High Court in Belfast began hearing a third attempt to clear his name, his lawyers said that he had been sentenced after a ruling that the bullet which killed 18-year-old Karen Reilly had been fired into the back of the car and was therefore an excessive use of force.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, said that tests had since shown that the bullet would have fragmented before reaching Miss Reilly in the back seat, so that fatal shot must have been one of three which Clegg fired into the side of the car in legitimate self-defence.

The first day of what is expected to be a week-long hearing was briefly disrupted by republican demonstrators who stood and shouted slogans such as "Free republican prisoners", "Double standards" and "No justice, no peace", before being forcibly removed from the public gallery.

Clegg, a member of the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, was part of an patrol that opened fire on a stolen Vauxhall Astra as it accelerated through a West Belfast checkpoint in September 1990. Miss Reilly and the 17-year-old driver, Martin Peake, both died.

It was later established that she was killed by one of four bullets fired by Clegg.

He was charged with murder and tried without a jury. A judge sentenced him to life imprisonment in 1993. Clegg was released on licence to resume his army career in 1995, following a huge public campaign in Britain which triggered riots in nationalist areas.

Karen Reilly: parents in court

The Court of Appeal and House of Lords dismissed his first two attempts to have his conviction overturned, but earlier this year Sir Patrick Mayhew, then Northern Ireland Secretary, granted him leave to appeal a third time.

Clegg, now 29 and an army PT instructor at Catterick, North Yorkshire, was not in court yesterday. However his parents were present, as were Miss Reilly's parents.

Mr Scrivener said that Clegg had been convicted "on the basis of opinions without any expert ever having conducted a single test". Neither the prosecution nor the defence had tested the opinion of a forensic expert.

For the appeal, he said, the defence had since "instructed a forensic expert to carry out a series of tests, firing bullets at an identical Astra car to see what results were achieved". The basis of the conviction was that the fatal bullet had gone through the back of the car.

A bullet did go through the back, but that bullet would have fragmented and could not have killed Karen Reilly. The fatal bullet went sideways through the rear passenger door, Mr Scrivener said.

Reginald Weir, the Crown counsel, said: "The whole new theory is so inherently improbable that it just doesn't stack up with other evidence."

The hearing continues.

JOHN GILES/PA

Lee Clegg: jailed for life but freed on licence after public campaign

PC guilty of kicking student 20 times

By Stewart Tendler

A POLICEMAN who kicked a student 20 times after a disturbance at a pub was convicted at the Old Bailey yesterday of assault and affray.

PC Paul Evans, 32, was found guilty of assaulting Ben Swarbrick in May 1994 when officers from Stoke Newington police station, in North London, were called out to an incident at the Putlog pub.

Mr Swarbrick told the court that Evans told him to turn away in the station yard and then began to kick him. He told the officer that he wanted to see his face and said that Evans had replied: "You'll remember my face until the day you die, and that is going to be very soon."

Evans, who has been a policeman for ten years, assured the court that he was a "tolerant, liberal-minded person". He will be sentenced today.

Six other officers, acquitted of various charges including conspiring to pervert the course of justice, have been suspended.

Minister says smoking costs NHS £1.7bn

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

SMOKING costs the health service up to £1.7 billion a year, Tessa Jowell said yesterday. The Public Health Minister, who this month announced the decision to allow continuing tobacco sponsorship of Formula One racing, said the figures underlined the case for early European Union legislation to end advertising by the industry.

"Costs of between £1.4 billion and £1.7 billion a year are an appalling drain on the NHS, and an enormous human cost to smokers and their families," she said. The new calculation of smoking costs, by the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York, contrasts with earlier Government estimates of £610 million a year.

Smokers in Britain spend £12 billion a year buying tobacco products, and the Government receives £10.25 billion of this in duty, up from £9.82 billion last year. A further £560 million is collected in corporation tax, business rates, income tax on wages of the 148,000 staff and VAT. The tobacco industry also has a £593 million positive balance of trade, making it one of the top export earners.

The Department of Health said: "The allocation of resources is a Treasury matter. All we can say is what smoking costs the NHS and draw attention to the amount of human suffering it entails."

The new study estimates that an average health authority will expect to spend about £14 million a year treating smokers, including £2.5 million on GP visits and £1.5 million on prescriptions. "These figures show why we need tough action at both a domestic and European level to bring down rates of smoking, especially among the young," she said. "A Government White Paper, produced next year, will spell out a comprehensive range of measures."

She said give-up-smoking competitions, counselling and nicotine replacement therapy would form part of the Government's strategy. She claimed that smoking and passive smoking could lead to heart and lung problems not just for adults but for children and babies, who had a 72 per cent increased risk of respiratory disease if their mother smoked.

The pro-smoking group Forest has chartered a DC3 similar to the one above to send a delegation to a tobacco conference in Amsterdam next weekend. The flight, from Biggin Hill in Kent, will take at least twice as long as a regular one by a jet airliner from Heathrow. This should give the 17 delegates plenty of time to light up and make the most of the fact that they are allowed to smoke all the way. Smoking is not allowed on any scheduled flights from London to Amsterdam.

Cash freeze puts RSC into red

By Philip Delves Broughton

THE Prince of Wales blamed freezes on government funding to the arts yesterday for reducing the Royal Shakespeare Company to a state of "perpetual crisis management" and plunging it into debt for the first time in four years.

Chairing the annual general meeting of the RSC, of which he is president, at its base in Stratford-upon-Avon, the Prince sympathised with the "day-to-day frustrations and difficulties" brought on the company by the freezing of Arts Council funding at 1993-94 levels.

He spoke after Sir Geoffrey Cass, chairman of the council of the RSC, had given details of the company's annual report. Reduced box office takings, lower attendances at *Les Miserables*, the RSC's cash cow of recent years, and the erosion of government funds as a proportion of total funding, had all contributed to a trading loss of £1.8 million in 1996-97.

Having begun the year in credit, the RSC now stands £1.6 million in the red. Sir Geoffrey said that the deficit was still manageable but could be completely wiped out if the Government unfroze their grant. In September the RSC submitted a bid for Lottery money to fund a feasibility study into a £75 million redevelopment of the RSC Stratford headquarters. Should that go ahead, it would be one of the biggest arts capital projects outside London.

The company, however, is pessimistic about having its Arts Council grant unfrozen when it comes up for review at the beginning of December. A spokesman for the company said that "all the signals we are getting are that the Treasury is not keen on increasing art subsidies".

The RSC is nonetheless continuing an aggressive programme of touring in Britain and internationally. Next spring the company will transfer for three weeks to the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York and for four weeks to the Kennedy Centre in Washington DC.

The tour will be funded by American promoters who will underwrite any losses should they arise. It is hoped that the tour will encourage more American tourists in Britain to visit the RSC.

Cold-blooded killer cut schoolgirl's throat

More than 100 police join hunt for attacker, reports Simon de Bruxelles

SCHOOLGIRL Kate Bushell had her throat cut by a "cold-blooded, calculating" killer who probably lay in wait for her, police disclosed yesterday.

The 14-year-old was killed while walking a neighbour's dog along a country lane just 300 yards from her home in Exwick on the outskirts of Exeter on Saturday evening. More than 100 officers have been drafted in to help search for the killer. Detectives believe the attack may have been sexually motivated and fear he may strike again.

Police have called in a specialist "crime profiler", a behavioural psychologist, who will help draw up a profile of the killer's personality. Detective Superintendent Michael Stephens, who is leading the murder hunt, said Kate was seen by a woman motorist walking down Exwick Lane at around 5pm on Saturday. At 7.35pm her father, Jeremy, found Kate's body in a field near a stile, her throat "ripped" open. Mr Stephens said: "Kate was killed by a sharp instrument, possibly a knife, cutting through her throat. We have not ruled out a sexual motive to this horrific crime.

"This was a premeditated attack by someone who has control of themselves and control of the victim. This was obviously a ruthless attack."

A policewoman watches as pupils arrive at St Thomas's High School in Exeter yesterday

Officers are appealing for local people to search through their bins in the hope that the killer may have discarded the murder weapon. Forensic experts were still working at the scene of the crime last night, examining footprints left in the muddy ground and searching for other clues.

Police say they were no obvious signs of a struggle at the scene and will not disclose whether Kate suffered any other injuries. Gemma, the Jack Russell that Kate had taken for a walk, was returned to her owners yesterday after being examined by a vet.

Mr Stephens appealed for anyone who may have seen anything suspicious to come forward.

He said: "We have been told more than 100 people a day use the lane for walking, exercising dogs, or as a short cut. We need to know about some suspicious people seen in the area in the last weeks or months.

"We are asking members of the public to check their bins for anything that could be thrown away such as a knife or bloodstained clothing. We have had dozens of calls which have included various reports of suspicious people seen in the area. These are being investigated and some have been resolved."

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Davies, second-in-command of the inquiry, said: "This was a cold, calculating, ruthless attack. It could have been somebody who followed her for some distance or been in the lane."

He said all sex attacks in Exeter in the past five years were being checked and a profiler was to join the inquiry later this week.

Kate, a talented musician and devout church-goer, left her home in Burrator Drive at 4.30pm and headed for the lane which runs behind a training centre for the Guide Dogs for the Blind at Cleve House. Her mother Susan, 41, father and brother Tim, 16, were being comforted at their home last night by specially-trained police family liaison teams. Mr Bushell, 44, who took early retirement from his job in local government to become a full-time missionary and charity worker, had recently returned from a trip delivering aid to Bosnia.

APEX

Kate Bushell, circled, with some of her classmates on a school trip last year. She was a devout church-goer

Fearful school friends sent home in buses

By Joanna Bale

CLASSMATES of the murdered teenager Kate Bushell were given buses home from school yesterday amid fears that her killer could strike again.

They also received counselling from a team of eight specially trained teachers as they struggled to come to terms with the crime. Many pupils arriving at St Thomas's High School in Exeter for the first time since her murder, wept as they placed floral tributes at the gates.

One read: "It shouldn't happen to anyone, least of all you. We should all be safe around here. God's got a new angel now." Another said: "Thinking of your family at this tragic time." It was signed simply "a mum".

Steve Maddern, the head teacher, said that the school had many received messages of sympathy. He said: "The whole country is thinking about Kate and her family and the school."

He added that some pupils had been very upset and one had asked to go home. "It has been a very, very sad day. We need time to share our grief together. We need to pull together to get through this situation. The police have spoken to the pupils and additional buses are being put on into the area where Kate was killed to reduce the number of students on the streets."

Mr Maddern, who became head teacher ten weeks ago, added: "It is an awful situation for us to face. But this is a close-knit community and school." Pupils had approached him to discuss a suitable memorial. "Obviously the pupils in Year 9 who were close friends of Kate's will be feeling her loss the most but her death has affected pupils and staff throughout the school."

He added: "As a committed Christian it was appropriate that prayers were read for Kate today by some of her friends from the Isca Christian Fellowship and Initiative in Christian Education [local evangelical groups] at this morning's assemblies.

"We will all remember Kate as someone who did the right things and always had a smile on her face.

"It is right for us all to shed a tear and to be angry about the way Kate died and for us to pray that the police will find her killer as soon as possible."

BA flies into Europe with no-frills service

Small operators feel threatened by the global giant's plans to expand into the cut-price market. Report by Arthur Leathley and Steve Keenan

BRITISH Airways is to take on the cut-price, no-frills rivals by reducing fares below £100 on some of the most competitive routes in Europe.

The move brings one of the world's biggest players into a market that has been dominated by small companies offering fares as low as £19 on some domestic routes. BA is drawing up plans to introduce a service, independent of its main global operation, to some of the most popular destinations in Europe.

The highly competitive "no frills" sector, which offers no in-flight food or entertainment, has seen the number of passengers increase by more than 30 per cent on some routes over the past two years.

The new service, operating from Stansted airport in Essex, will fly to Italy, Spain, Scandinavia, France and Germany, although specific cities have not yet been announced. Cut-price to cities including Nice, Amsterdam and Barcelona have frequently been pegged below £100 by operators who have pared back costs on airport charges, commissions and administrative staff.

Although new prices have yet to be announced for the service beginning early next year, senior BA officials made clear that they would not be trying to undercut the lowest fares currently on offer, but would provide a better quality service than the competition.

However, the announcement by BA yesterday immediately sparked complaints that the national carrier would be able to use profits from its core operations to put competitors out of business. Ryanair, the leading cut-price airline, issued a warning that the cheap-fare operators would not be driven out. "We will undercut any fare you offer," said a director.

Under the project name Operation Blue Sky, the new company, which has not yet been named, will operate as a separate business to BA, with its own name, management and 150 staff.

It will be headed by Barbara Cassani, who was formerly BA's general manager in the United States and who predicted yesterday that she would transform the low-cost airline buisness. "We will be the Ikea of the airline business. What Ikea did to make cheap furniture tasteful, we will do to the low-fare market. There will be more style to this market than has been seen before."

BA said that, unlike other British-based low-cost carriers, the new airline will recognise unions. Agreement has already been reached with the British Air Line Pilots Association (Balpa) and talks are being held with other unions, it added.

Richard Branson, the head of Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Express, which operates out of Brussels, said that the announcement was typical of the approach to business by BA, which "hated" competition.

"Their plans clearly threaten carriers such as EasyJet, Debonair and Ryanair who are already flying, or planning to fly, most of these routes from their existing London bases. We would certainly support these carriers in any moves they may make to cry foul to the European Commission."

Blue skies, page 33

PETER TREVNOR

Barbara Cassani aims to end the low-fare industry's "cheap and nasty" image

Mother of intention heads to the top

THE head of BA's low fares service is American-born Barbara Cassani, who has already headed the airline's attempts to make inroads into the highly competitive US market.

Mrs Cassani, 37, a mother of two, is a highly rated executive of whom one senior colleague said yesterday: "She's ready to take on anyone -- and she usually wins."

She insisted yesterday that she would rid the low-fare airline industry of its "cheap and nasty" image. "Just because it is good value doesn't mean it needs to be a poor service," she said. "We will not be showering passengers with caviare and champagne but we can give them a better service than they are getting on low-fare routes."

Mrs Cassani has been a senior manager with BA for the past decade, with jobs ranging from sales and marketing to general manager at Gatwick airport. She was general manager of its American operations until May.

Fine wine bill is cheap at half the price

By Robin Young

THREE businessmen who spent £13,091 on dinner, most of it on fine wines, could have saved themselves more than half the bill if they had eaten in Sussex instead of Mayfair.

The bill, recognised as a British record by envious competitors yesterday, was incurred at *Le Gavroche*, the Roux brothers' restaurant. Only £220 of the amount went on food.

The party, three businessmen who were celebrating one of their number's 50th birthday, started with a bottle of Krug 1949, a rare champagne priced at £560. "I have nothing of that age in champagne," admitted Barry Phillips of the White Horse Inn at Chilgrove in West Sussex yesterday, "but for almost everything else they drank I could have offered them substantial savings."

The trio continued with a bottle of 1985 Le Montrachet from the Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, the top white burgundy. They paid £1,400. "I just sold a bottle for £475," said Mr Phillips, whose 18th-century inn has one of the country's finest wine lists. The saving the businessmen missed: £925.

Their next choice was 1985 Romanée-Conti, the top *grand cru* red burgundy again from the DRC. They paid £4,950. "On my list it is £1,750," said Mr Phillips. Saving: £3,200.

After one glass each the diners decided the wine was a bit young and offered the rest to the staff, replacing it with Château Latour 1961. To them: £2,100. At the White Horse it would have been only £995. Another £1,105 missed.

Next they chose another great claret, the Graves *premier cru*, Château Haut Brion 1945. Price: £1,950. "Really great wine", enthused Mr Phillips. "I would have let them have it for £850". A further saving of £1,100.

To accompany dessert, the wine waiter at Le Gavroche suggested the top-flight Sauternes, Château d'Yquem 1967, at £1,070 a bottle. "Good choice," approved Mr Phillips, "but I would only have charged £550." Another potential economy of £520.

The trio finished off with Monte Cristo A cigars at £47.50 each and three cluf-measure glasses of 1900 armagnac brandy at £200 each.

Coastguards fear station closures will risk lives

By Daniel McGrory and Russell Jenkins

COASTGUARDS were in open revolt last night after the service unveiled plans to shut down four coastal stations. They said that closing Liverpool, Tyne, Oban in Argyll and Bute, and Pentland in Orkney would put lives at risk.

However John Astbury, the chief coastguard, said: "They are talking rubbish about us jeopardising lives. We are not doing this to save money but to make us more efficient. We stake our reputations on that".

Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister, who announced the loss of 78 jobs, came under attack from union leaders who said it was ironic that her grandfather had been a lifeboatman in Hoylake on the Wirral. Brian May, of the Public Service, Tax and Commerce Union at the Liverpool station, also condemned John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who he remembered

Jackson: promised no reduction in cover

joining an earlier protest against cuts outside the Commons brandishing a poster Commons proclaiming, "Don't sink the coastguards". He argued that closures could mean increased stress for staff and predicted there would be more errors "likely to lead to loss of life".

As well as the four closures, the stations at Lee-on-the-Solent and Portland will be moved into the same headquarters and staff will be expected to help each other out during emergencies. Union leaders predicted industrial action among coastguards to resist the cuts which they described as "appalling" and "another government U-turn".

The service insists that improved digital technology in radio communication means it can safely cover 10,500 miles of coastline using only 17 stations. It hopes to pay for the technological innovation with the savings made by closing the four stations.

Mr Asthury said staff would be consulted about the plan but added that the four stations would definitely close, "no matter what". "At the end of the five years it will take to implement this plan, there will be more coastguards in uniform than we had last year."

Oban and Pentland will close in the next two years, their duties being taken over by Stornoway and Clyde and Shetland and Aberdeen respectively. Liverpool and Tyne will close a year later and be covered in future from Holyhead and Bridlington.

Miss Jackson said: "There will be no reduction in coastguard cover for dealing with emergencies. In the UK, I believe we have the best search and rescue service in the world and that's how I intend to continue."

John Cherrett, the coastguard representative of the public service union, said: "We are talking about peoples' lives at risk and I find this utterly appalling. We have to fight a campaign to make the Government see the stupidity of their ways and ensure the country has a proper, funded and staffed service."

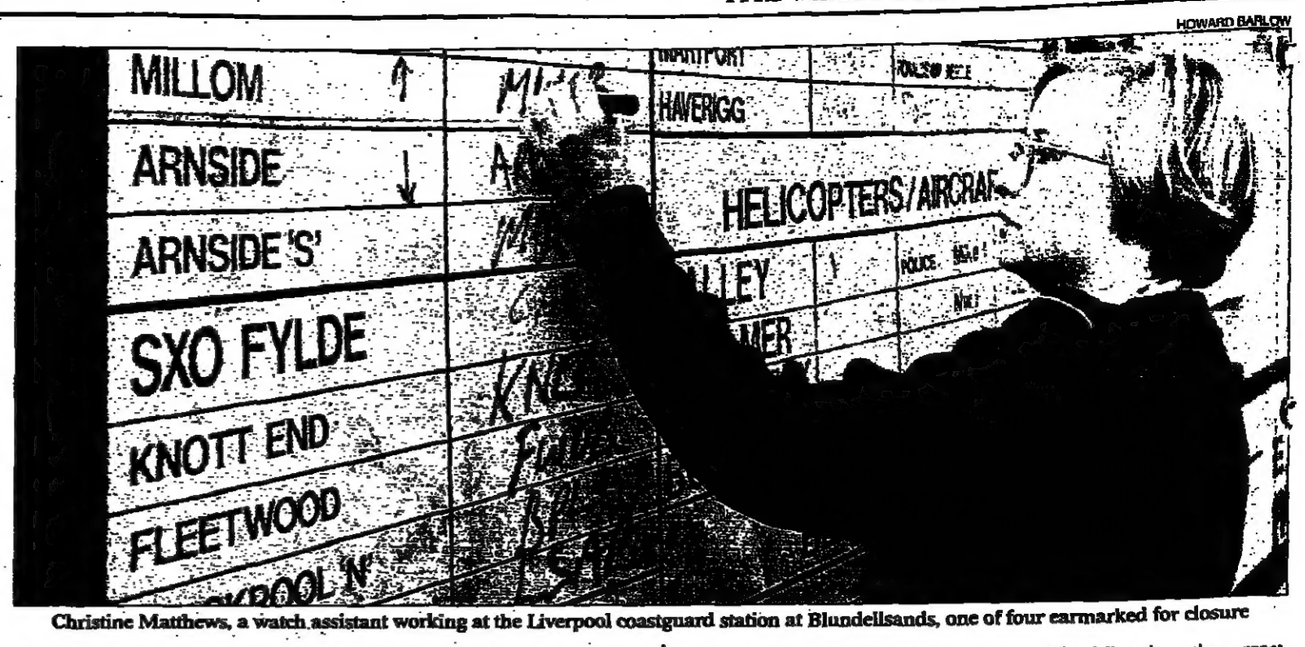
He said the introduction of digital communications was not the answer. "People out for walks along the coast, the casual sea user, people on their little yachts at the weekend do not have VHF radios, they use mobile phones and there will be no-one there to answer them."

The Liverpool station, at Blundellsands, covers one of the world's busiest industrial shipping. Outside the operations room window, tankers pass within yards of each other on choppy grey seas. Inside, officers deal efficiently with the 642nd emergency this year, a windsurfer reported missing in the Dee estuary.

Emergencies range from major oil spills to stranded ferries, but an increasing number concern ordinary people messing about in boats whose first call in an emergency is the coastguard . From Blundellsands, the coastguards monitor distress calls over 700 miles of coastline.

Mr May said the decision to axe the station was "totally illogical" at a time when maritime traffic was rising sharply. It was a regular occurrence for the watch manager to have to cope with three or four emergencies at a time. The stress was "phenomenal" in a job where local knowledge was crucial to dealing swiftly to an emergency.

HOWARD BARLOW



Christine Matthews, a watch assistant working at the Liverpool coastguard station at Blundellsands, one of four earmarked for closure

Theatre grants cut as lottery cash reduced

By Mark Henderson

THEATRES, galleries and concert halls seeking National Lottery funding for capital projects are to have their awards limited to a maximum £15 million under a new spending strategy announced by the Arts Council of England yesterday.

Projects will be allowed to exceed £15 million only if they are deemed to be of exceptional national or international significance, and just £200 million is to be made available to cover such awards over the next eight years. Funding for smaller projects will also be reduced.

The council said it had to make this decision because of the Government's decision to allocate lottery funds to a sixth "good cause", promoting health education and supplementary education in deprived areas.

In its first 2½ years, the Arts Council's National Lottery Panel made 11 awards of more than £15 million, totalling £325.5 million. The largest award was £78.5 million made to the Royal Opera House.

The change could spell trouble for the application by the South Bank Centre in London for funds towards a £150 million refit. The centre is seeking £113 million but a new, lower submission will be considered next week.

The council said that because of the extra "good cause", the council's cut of the lottery cake was down from 17 per cent to below 14 per cent. Jeremy Newton, the council's lottery director, said: "We have to look carefully at the best way to allocate money."

The council had also diverted a third of its resources from the fund to help with the running cost of individual arts organisations as well as capital spending, he said. There will be big cuts in funding for smaller projects, with spending sinking from the current £325 million a year to £125 million a year.

☐ Owners of some of the country's finest historic houses are seeking £130 million of government funding for repairs. The Historic Houses Association, which represents 1,400 owners, will make the appeal at its annual general meeting today, arguing that the houses and their grounds are central to the tourism industry.

The Green Room, damaged by fire and water from hoses, now fully restored

Duke adds the royal touch to restored castle

The work is under budget, the quality is first-rate and the customer is happy, writes Alan Hamilton

DES JENSON

Images of a workman salvaging a painting and a fireman were born of sketches by the Duke of Edinburgh

A STAINED-GLASS window inspired by the Duke of Edinburgh and a memorial plaque identifying where the blaze started are the only obvious clues to visitors that, on the Queen's wedding anniversary five years ago, a corner of Windsor Castle was consumed by fire.

The largest historic building restoration project in Britain this century was unveiled for media inspection yesterday by Royal Household officials, who reported that the final bill would be £37 million, well below initial estimates of £60 million.

Work was completed six months ahead of schedule, after a late scramble to return the Queen's favourite residence to her in time for her golden wedding anniversary on Thursday, when she and the Duke will host a private dance for family, friends and guests. In June, Lionel Mann, the royal chef, and his team were invited to the restored medieval kitchens for a catering dress rehearsal for the dinner-dance, but they walked out, saying that the site was far too dusty from building work for them to cook a proper meal. They will be back on Thursday, satisfied that cleanliness has been restored.

The blaze recorded

Nine state apartments were destroyed or severely damaged and a further 100 rooms affected by the fire, which burnt for 15 hours. Some 250 firefighters poured 1.5 million gallons of water on the blaze, equivalent to two seconds' flow over Niagara Falls.

The restored apartments will be reopened to the public on December 27. Visitors to the newly created private chapel will see a stained-glass window born of some rough sketches by the Duke. It includes one panel showing a firefighter with hose in front of a burning castle, and another showing a hard-hatted workman carrying a painting to safety. Only one painting and one piece of furniture, both too bulky to move, were lost in the fire; the rest of the castle's art treasures were saved by the prompt action of a volunteer salvage crew, including the Duke of York.

The old private chapel, destroyed in the blaze, has been recreated as an anteroom to St George's Hall. On its wall is a plaque identifying the source of the fire, caused by a spotlight igniting a curtain.

Michael Peat, Keeper of the Privy Purse and the man responsible for the Queen's finances, said yesterday that the restoration budget included £10 million to £15 million for a sophisticated fire detection and prevention system. It is, he says, the equal of any in an historic building around the world.

Mr Peat said that the fire, on November 20, 1992, had broken out barely a year after the Royal Household had taken over responsibility for maintaining the occupied royal palaces from the Government. They had not got around to upgrading the castle's fire alarm system.

He added that, although most of the bills had now been paid, Buckingham Palace would remain open to visitors at least until 2000, when the situation would be reviewed. Tourist takings at the Palace and at Windsor have funded 70 per cent of the restoration, the rest coming from savings in the household's annual grant-in-aid for maintenance from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Any surplus from the Palace box-office would go to help maintain the Royal Collection, which, with half a million paintings, drawings, photographs and *objets d'art*, is one of the largest private art collections in the world, and which receives no funding from the taxpayer.

Visitors to Windsor are likely to be impressed by the new hammerbeam roof erected in St George's Hall, the largest apartment in the castle. Designed by the architect Giles Downes, of Sidell Gibson, the roof is the largest piece of Gothic-style carpentry erected in Britain for more than two centuries. Made of green English oak from 70 trees in Hereford and Worcester, it is more than 150ft long, constructed entirely of carpentry joints without glue, bolts or screws, and is decorated with the shields of more than 700 past Knights of the Garter.

"We had to search for the craftsmen, but we eventually found them all in Britain, and they are every bit as good as craftsmen ever were," Mr Downes said yesterday. "The roof is new and not a replica of what was there before. I have tried to reinterpret Gothic for our own times, but keeping to the principles of geometry, craftsmanship and natural materials."

The whole project employed some 5,000 craftsmen on and off site, and 200 specialist firms, many of them taxed to the limits of their skills.

Apparently, the customer is satified. At a party for contractors and craftsmen in St George's Hall on Friday, the Queen made an impromptu speech saying she was "absolutely delighted" with the results.

☐ The Guildhall luncheon and the gala concert at the Festival Hall to celebrate the golden wedding anniversary of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh take place tomorrow, and not today, as reported in yesterday's editions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

No bail for former spy held over book plans

A former MI6 officer, charged under the Official Secrets Act for planning to write a book about his experiences, has had his bail application refused.

Richard Tomlinson, 34, an intelligence officer with the Secret Intelligence Service until 1995, served in Bosnia and Moscow. He was arrested in October after sending a synopsis of the book to a publisher in Australia, Bow Street magistrates were told. Mr Tomlinson was remanded in custody until November 24.

Barrister jailed

A barrister swindled more than £10,000 in state benefits to pay his monthly £1,350 rent in central London. Graeme Wood, 38, a lecturer, who concealed earnings from three London colleges, was jailed for a year at Knightsbridge Crown Court.

Prison inquiry

A prison officer from Wakefield jail, West Yorkshire, was suspended while police investigate allegations of blackmail. The Home Office said a decision regarding the officer's future would be made when the outcome of the inquiry was made known.

Latex glove risks

Up to one in ten health workers who use latex gloves suffer from occupational asthma or dermatitis, according to the TUC and the National Asthma Campaign. They have launched a joint effort to alert staff to the risks of wearing the gloves.

Webber retunes

Lord Lloyd-Webber's musical *Whistle Down The Wind* will open in London next summer at the Aldwych Theatre, after being reworked from last year's Washington premiere. It was inspired by a 1961 film about children who think a fugitive killer is Jesus.

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Suicide bid video given to the media

By Richard Ford

CLOSED-CIRCUIT television footage of a man trying to kill himself was given to the media by his local council, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Millions of viewers saw the incident on BBC's *Crime Beat*, leaving the impression the man had been involved in a criminal act, the court was told. In a test case, Geofrey Peck, 42, from Brentwood, Essex, is challenging the decision by Brentwood Borough Council to provide copies of the film to local and national television stations.

Richard Gordon, QC, for Mr Peck, said that, when he was picked up on the council's cameras, he was suffering from severe depression and was about to kill himself with a knife. He had lost his job and his partner was terminally ill.

The council is contesting the case and says it behaved legally and "with propriety".

The hearing continues.

The mugger threatening Sloan Eagleson, 72, in the August raid and, top, Mr Eagleson yesterday

Hostage's ordeal on bank film

DRAMATIC closed-circuit television film of a pensioner being held hostage during a bank raid was seen by a judge yesterday before he sentenced the robber.

The film showed Sloan Eagleson, 72, with an imitation gun to his neck. "I thought if the bank didn't cough up he was going to blow my head off. It was horrible," he said.

Scott Wilds, 24, from Littlehampton, West Sussex, was jailed for nine years at Chichester Crown Court for stealing £2,500 from Lloyds Bank in Worthing in August.

DNA pioneer in hunt for beast of the moors

By Michael Hornsby
Countryside Correspondent

A PIONEER of genetic fingerprinting is to conduct DNA analysis of a possible clue to the Beast of Bodmin Moor. Recent attacks on sheep and an apparent sighting by councillors on a coach trip have renewed the belief that puma-like creatures are at large in the West Country.

The chance of very basic scientific evidence emerged this month in countryside near Torrington, Devon, when a local couple reported seeing a large brownish cat answering the call of nature. They alerted Newquay Zoo, which has passed a sample of droppings to Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys of Leicester University, who in 1984 developed the DNA sampling technique.

Mike Thomas, the zoo's managing director, said: "We are hoping that the DNA test, which could take many weeks, will throw light on the the animal and its eating habits. Over the years the zoo has received many calls from people who say they have seen big cats. Everyone cannot be mistaken."

The paw prints: zoo staff say they are like a puma's but ministry wildlife experts believe it was a dog

Sir Alec said that if the DNA analysis suggested feline origin, the data would be sent to the US National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland. "A colleague has been collating a database of different felines," he said. "If — and I emphasise that — we can obtain enough evidence, they will help to determine what type of cat it is."

Mr Thomas believes he also has new evidence in the shape of paw prints on the edge of a water pool at an old clay working near St Austell, Cornwall. He said: "A large puma-like cat was seen there by a group of county councillors on October 3. We made casts from the prints and compared them with casts taken from the zoo's pumas. The similarity was striking."

Joan Vincent, who chairs the county's planning committee, said: "There were 24 of us on the bus and at least eight saw the cat. It was brownish, between five and six feet long, with a long upward curving tail, and was crouched, drinking."

Five ewes were savaged in the area last week, on a landscaped clay tip owned by English China Clays International. Loren Bracher, a company spokesman, said, "All but one died or had to be put down. They had been deeply bitten in the back of the neck. Our shepherd said it did not look like the work of a dog."

Two years ago the Ministry of Agriculture said there was "no verifiable evidence" of the Beast of Bodmin Moor. The ministry said yesterday: "Our inquiry is still open. However, our experts have seen photographs of the prints near St Austell and think they are more likely to be those of a dog."

☐ In Scotland, Fife police believe that a fuzzy film taken by a local woman of a large feline creature is the best evidence so far of the existence of the Beast of Cupar. PC George Redpath said: "My personal opinion is that there is a puma in this area."

Sensible eaters are advised to go nuts

By Ian Murray

EATING nuts regularly may help you to prolong life, researchers said yesterday. If people ate more of them, death rates from all causes could be cut by almost a quarter, they claimed.

The 11,000 volunteers who took part in the 13-year study included vegetarians, semi-vegetarians and meat eaters. The research showed that the biggest risk factor for death from heart disease was total consumption of animal fat and cholesterol, rather than meat.

There was little evidence of any one food offering protection, with the possible exception of nuts. "Nuts are good sources of vitamin E, other antioxidant nutrients, and linoleic acid," the researchers say in the journal *Heart*.

Vegetarianism was associated with a slight, but not significant, fall in the death rate. Death rates were higher among cheese and egg eaters than among those who ate a lot of meat and milk.

Scientists from Oxford University, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the University of Otago, New Zealand, collaborated on the research.

Sandwich sales soar as lunch declines

By Robin Young

BRITONS are spending more on sandwiches than they do on pizza, pasta and burgers put together. Outperforming growth in all other fast-food sectors, sandwich sales have grown by 45 per cent over the past five years, according to market researchers Mintel.

It values the sandwich market at £2.2 billion a year, with sales of 1.7 billion sandwiches.

Shorter lunch breaks, the trend towards eating on the move or at work, snacking and growing health concerns are all believed to have contributed to the sandwich's burgeoning popularity.

Of the 1.7 billion eaten every year, four-fifths are filled with chicken, prawn, egg, cheese, ham, tuna, beef or turkey. But exotic fillings, which can be anything from smoked eel wrapped in ham to kangaroo meat with raspberry preserve, have a fifth of the market.

The best sellers are still chicken with about 11 per cent of the market, selling 187 million sandwiches a year, and prawn mayonnaise (10 per cent, 170 million). The ubiquitous BLT (bacon, lettuce and tomato) now ties with egg with mayonnaise or cress (with 9 per cent, 153 million) for third place.

Children follow fat parents' lead

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

BRITAIN is becoming caught in a vicious circle of obesity, with an increasing number of fat parents bringing up fat children, a study published today shows.

The study of almost 13,000 men and women born during the same week in 1958 shows that children with fat parents are significantly more likely to be fat, to become fat adults then to have fat children. Researchers believe that the key to halting the trend is in identifying the children at risk and helping them to stay slim.

The prevalence of obesity in couples doubled between 1969 and 1991, with both partners in 6 per cent of couples now seriously overweight. Data from the 1958 group show that the weight of children increases in proportion to the degree of parental fatness. Seven-year-old girls with two obese parents are 10 per cent heavier than those with parents of normal weight. By the age of 33 the difference is more than 20 per cent.

The study, reported by Julie Lake of the Institute of Child Health, London, in the *Archives of Disease of Childhood*, concludes that children of fat parents are at increased risk of obesity throughout childhood and early adult life.

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Ministers urged to back campaign against art theft

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

A WORLDWIDE illicit trade in antiquities could be significantly reduced if the Government adopted an international convention on such objects, archaeologists said yesterday.

Representatives of the British Museum and other archaeological and heritage organisations have begun a campaign for Britain to ratify the Unidroit Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects. The previous Government is thought to have feared that it would restrict trade in the art market, although countries such as France and Switzerland signed up in 1995.

The 34-strong forum of British organisations that make up the Standing Conference on Portable Antiquities argue that the £100 million international antiquities market encourages the plunder of important sites in countries such as India, Italy and Egypt. They have given their unanimous backing to a resolution that calls on the Government to adopt the Unidroit Convention and deplores "the loss to knowledge and damage to the cultural heritage" caused by the trade in antiquities. The convention, they say, would ease the return of stolen artefacts to their rightful owners, whether governments, museums or individuals. The resolution was proposed by Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, the Cambridge archaeologist and Master of Jesus College, on behalf of the Council for British Archaeology.

Lord Renfrew will today launch the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research in Cambridge to lobby governments into taking action, campaign against the worldwide looting of historic sites and monitor the scale of the traffic in antiquities.

Lord Renfrew said: "The real value of these artefacts is destroyed once they are removed from their archaeological context."

Commenting on the resolution, he said: "It's a great step forward that the standing conference representing most archaeology and heritage bodies in Britain have now warmly endorsed the Unidroit Convention. I very much hope the Government, as it has hinted, goes ahead and adopts it."

He said that even though London had become one of the clearing centres for antiquities from countries such as India and China, the previous government had resisted ratifying the convention. "They were worried about the status of Britain as a trading centre for the work of the art market. The art market now realises that if it doesn't clean up its act, it will lose face."

He said that Sotheby's had "at last done something about it", announcing last July that it was to end antiquities sales in London after allegations that the firm sold artefacts that had been smuggled into Britain. He said the rest of the art market should follow their example. He pointed out that the convention was not retroactive and would not affect treasures such as the Elgin Marbles.

Dr Peter Addyman, director of the York Archaeological Trust and chairman of the standing conference, said: "The UK's archaeological community has taken an important step. We will be putting the detailed case for Unidroit's implementation in the near future. Ethical traders have nothing to fear from it. The world's history will benefit from the better stewardship of archaeological material for which it provides."

He said the scale of the problem was almost impossible to estimate. "But the impression we get in Britain is that whenever there's an opportunity for antiquities to be removed from their rightful place, such as Afganistan or Iraq, where conditions mean something can be easily extracted from the ground, as often as not they turn up in London."

MARTIN BEDDALL

Lord Renfrew hopes that the Government, "as it has hinted", adopts the convention on looted antiquities

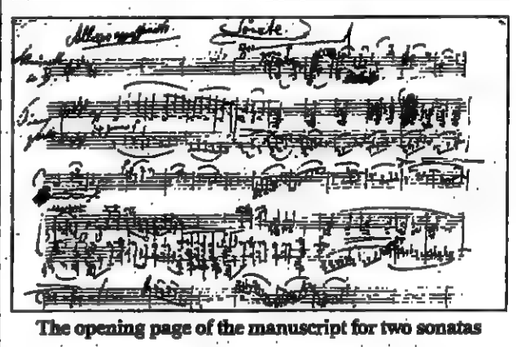
Wildlife charter calls for big fines

By Nick Nuttall

FARMERS, landowners and companies that damage the country's most important wildlife sites could be arrested, face tougher fines and be forced to restore damaged areas to their natural state under a new Wildlife Charter.

The charter was unveiled yesterday by 22 green groups — including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Butterfly Conservation, the Wildlife Trusts, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the World Wide Fund for Nature — which want new legislation by next autumn to end the damage and destruction of the nation's Sites of Special Scientific Interest and the plants and animals they hold.

The groups also want a network of marine protected areas, mirroring those on the land, to conserve porpoises, dolphins and other ocean-living creatures.



The opening page of the manuscript for two sonatas

Rare Brahms manuscript to fetch £500,000

By Damian Whitworth

A RARE original manuscript by Brahms, regarded as the most important of its kind to come on the market, is expected to fetch £500,000 at auction in London. The composer usually destroyed drafts of his work, but he gave this one, for two sonatas, to the clarinettist who inspired him to write them and whose descendants are now selling.

Brahms met Richard Mühlfeld, the greatest clarinettist of his day, in 1891, a year after he had declared that he had retired from composing. He was so inspired by Mühlfeld's sensitive playing that he set to work on the sonatas, Op 12 No 1 in F minor and Op 120 No 2 in E flat major. The results are among his most refined work and the first important compositions for piano and clarinet.

The manuscript is signed and dedicated "To Richard Mühlfeld. The master of his beautiful instrument. In heartfelt and thankful memory." The 67 pages are heavily revised and annotated.

A few Brahms scores in his own hand exist in museums in Vienna. But often he would employ a copyist to prepare the final draft for the publisher and then destroy his own. "He collected other people's manuscripts such as Mozart and Beethoven, but not his own. Maybe he didn't want the forensic scrutiny of his own works," said Stephen Roe, head of the books department at Sotheby's, which estimates that the manuscript will fetch between £450,000 and £600,000 next month.

If it does, it will be the most expensive Brahms manuscript ever sold. A Beethoven piano sonata fetched £1 million in 1990.

Brahms, left, and clarinettist Richard Mühlfeld, whose playing inspired him to resume composing

Farcical secrets of the early James Bonds

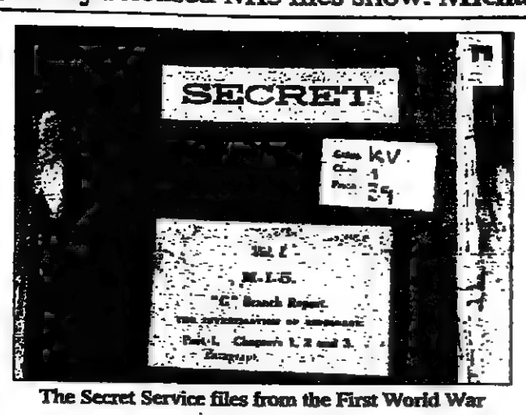
Hairdressers were among German agents' favourite recruits during the First World War, newly released MI5 files show. Michael Evans reports

UNCOVERING German espionage efforts before and during the First World War was a matter of top priority for the newly fledged Secret Service Bureau. But, as MI5 files released yesterday by the Public Record Office make clear, they often bordered on the farcical.

To gain the knowledge they were after, German spies recruited German-born hairdressers — a favourite source of intelligence gossip — schoolmasters, publicans, seamen, foreign pilots and "natives of the country prepared to betray their country for money". Watchmakers and photographers were also taken on occasionally.

For the Secret Service, the forerunner of MI5, some German spying activities were easily monitored. In one case, known as the Frant file, a German who gave his name as De Corina took a farm in the neighbourhood of Frant in Sussex. He went in for poultry farming, "but it was noticeable that the farm at Bartley Hill was a great rendezvous for Germans, most of whom spent the greater part of the time cycling and motoring all over the country".

The MI5 file states: "De Corina was a typical German and it was quite obvious that he could not be making his living from the proceeds of the farm." Although nothing was ever discovered "which could definitely connect this man with espionage, the whole circumstances of the case were very peculiar and suspicious".



The Secret Service files from the First World War

In another operation, known as the Rusper case, William Melville, a legendary Scotland Yard detective turned counter-espionage officer, was sent to the village of Rusper in Sussex to investigate two Germans. The Germans pretended to know nothing of each other, "but rapidly struck up an acquaintance".

Melville booked into the same guesthouse "and caused these gentlemen some perturbation". The MI5 file revealed that the Germans cross-questioned the landlord and asked him if Melville could speak any foreign languages. The landlord said that he could not. Shortly afterwards, the Germans quarrelled — "it was evidently a put-up job" — and refused to speak to each other until Melville had left.

Melville worked for G branch, which was responsible for counter-espionage. The MI5 files show that he was "too old for such work" and Captain Vernon Kell, the head of counter-espionage, had to apply for two more men to help with investigations.

The Secret Service was able to discover many of the code words used in passing messages back to German intelligence from spies it arrested. One, George Breckow, had his own codewords for Royal Navy ships. Old battleships were called Old Folks at Home, submarines Floating Down, and destroyers Pirates of Penzance. For naval ports he used musical terminology. Dartmouth was Darkie Melodies and Chatham Chattanooga Rag; Southampton was called Down South.

Other codewords used by various German spies included "eggs" for troops, "condensed milk" for cavalry, "margarine" for guns, "Dutch cheese" for battleships and "tinned lobster" for torpedo boats.

The spies used a variety of materials for sending off their secret messages. As early as November 1914, it was known that they were using secret writing. They used lemon juice, sometimes mixed with formalin. One message was "stamped on the skin of a Belgian woman", according to the files.

To detail the departure of warships from naval ports, the spies used a simple set of numbers in an otherwise incongruous message. The first number subtracted by one indicated the number of cruisers, the second the number of liners, the third the number of transports and the fourth the number of tracking vessels.

In each report, a date was given which, when increased by two indicated the date of departure of the ship. For example, the message: "Send 25 pounds, Richelieu, 85 Bedford Street, stay till 20th", meant "One cruiser, five liners, eight transports, five tracking vessels, setting off the 22nd." Another message appearing in the MI5 files reads: "Offer 12 tons potatoes before 23rd." This meant: 'No cruisers, two liners, starting 25th."


A hidden image appeared out of a suspect letter when chemicals were applied

Vigilance of Captain Kell's team brought swift success

By Michael Evans


Vernon Kell: spymaster

IN THE years before the First World War, England was overrun with German spies who were accustomed to gathering intelligence unimpeded by any counter-espionage operation.

It was not until a meeting at Scotland Yard in August 1908 involving, among others, Sir Edward Henry, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, that the decision was taken to set up what became MI5. The man put in charge was Captain Vernon Kell of the South Staffordshire Regiment, who spoke French, German, Russian and Chinese.

An MI5 document released yesterday said: "Unless a secret service system is prepared, we shall enter on a war fatally handicapped." One of the great fears was that Germans were already located at important sites from where they could observe England's military capabilities. An MI5 report said: "I believe several Germans now own land near important junctions. The Germans paid particular attention last year to Hither Green [southeast London], the new junction on the South East Railway."

Based in the War Office, Captain Kell began work in October 1909 as a one-man band. By August 1914 he had nine officers, three police, three civilians and four clerks. The unit was originally known as MO5 (Military Operations), becoming MI5 in 1916.

The team proved highly successful. Its men arrested 21 agents when war began, paralysing the German espionage effort. They were held until 1918.

The team also had an agent who was employed by the War Office to carry out intelligence-gathering abroad. Henry Dale Long, codenamed L, was based in Brussels. British spies sent abroad were given guidelines for procuring intelligence: when making sketches they should do so from a carriage, not on horseback, which was less discreet, even if the horse was "the quietest of animals".

The best way to communicate with agents was to take meals at the same restaurant but at different tables "and on leaving to take each other's hats off the pegs — all communications being put inside the lining of the hats".

In a list of dos and don'ts, one MI5 file noted: "If you are working in an uncivilised country and someone begins to take a marked interest in your movements or in your possessions, it will probably end in your having to kill him, so do not waste time as soon as you feel that he is up to mischief."

Sinn Fein laid plans to assist invasion

SINN FEIN tried to help the Germans to land arms and troops on the West Coast of Ireland in the First World War, the MI5 files show. A report by H branch, dated June 1918, refers to the plot by the Sinn Fein Inner Circle.

All Irish republican volunteers along the coast began to march inland, "drawing the military after them and so leaving a clear field for the landing". Several were arrested but, the H branch report continues, "the arrests disarranged, but did not entirely upset their plans, and secret drilling, despatch riding, etc, continue". Sinn Fein denied the plot "but secretly derided the suggestion that the Government can learn anything about it".

The report also reveals that H branch acquired the notebook belonging to Eamon de Valera, the survivor of the 1916 Easter Rising who went on to become the first President of the Irish Republic. It contained a memorandum about the army he planned to raise after the rebellion had established the Republic.

There was no mention of plans to help a German invasion. De Valera has the dubious honour of being the subject of the first personal file to be created by MI5. It is known as PF1.

In the end, no German troops landed in Ireland. Sir Roger Casement, who was eventually executed for treason and is seen in Ireland as a martyr to the republican cause, went to Germany to seek arms in 1916. He was arrested on his return, having received only obsolete arms.

In one reference to Sir Roger in the files, it is reported that in April 1916 an MI5 officer overheard a "most indiscreet" telephone conversation between an Irishman and a woman, in which she revealed the "very secret measures" used to monitor Casement.

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How Labour can avoid a repeat of Formula One fiasco

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE true story of the Ecclestone affair has started to emerge — and it is more muddle and inexperience than scandal. Nonetheless, despite Tony Blair's belief that he has done nothing wrong, there are important lessons over the way Downing Street works and for government relations with business donors. These are distinct from whatever long-term changes in the rules on party funding are recommended by the Neill committee.

Three separate problems occurred. First, the Government sent out confused signals over the implications of a ban on tobacco sponsorship for sport. The first contacts between 10 Downing Street and the Health Department were on May 6, four days after Mr Blair became Prime Minister. But the two were not always on the same wavelength. This maximised the impression of a big shift in policy when the exemption of Formula One was announced.

Second, ministers were too slow to appreciate the dangers of the appearance of a conflict of interest. Mr Blair's explanation of why it took him so long to decide against accepting a second Ecclestone donation and to consult the Neill committee was legalistic rather than political. The ethical red flag ought to have been waving from mid-October rather than a fortnight ago when the exemption decision was taken. The Blair camp argues that it would have been wrong to penalise Mr Ecclestone when he had already met other European leaders. Given the potential for misunderstanding, other senior ministers, rather than Mr Blair, should have met Mr Ecclestone, or the meeting should have been more formal with health and trade and industry ministers also involved.

Third, Downing Street took a week to realise the seriousness of the affair and to respond. Mr Blair received conflicting, and times inconsistent, advice from his inner circle — Gordon Brown, Lord Irvine of Lairg, Peter Mandelson and Alastair Campbell. Some wanted full disclosure earlier: others were apprehensive about the implications. So information dribbled out in the most damaging way. Moreover, only a few ministers, led by Mr Mandelson and Jack Straw, publicly raised their heads to defend Mr Blair. Others were unusually reclusive.

Mr Blair prefers an informal style and can be impatient with more formal procedures. But he needs to tighten up the Downing Street and funding operations. As the American Democrats have found, there is always the danger of fundraisers becoming over-enthusiastic and cutting corners. This is not a matter of moralising but of practical politics. The Blair team complain about being judged by higher standards than were demanded of the Tories and of being penalised in raising funds. But Labour was elected on a "clean up politics" platform. So Mr Blair has to be *seen* to be above reproach.

The long-term answer is full disclosure of not only the names of donors, as planned in legislation this session, but also the size of donations above £5,000. In the meantime, Mr Blair should introduce procedures for meetings with businessmen who have been big donors. Labour argues reasonably that it would be wrong to treat them worse than businessmen who have not given money. But any meetings between ministers and big donors should be formal, include all relevant departments, and be fully minuted. Perhaps the *Ministerial Code* should be revised. But, at present, there is no one to advise on these issues. Neither the Cabinet Secretary nor the Neill committee is the right body. It would be better to have a freestanding Office of Government Ethics or a commissioner to give rapid advice on these matters.

With the Tories largely ineffective, the Blair inner circle regards such suggestions as unnecessary. But not only are they justified by recent events but they would also allow the Government to regain the political initiative.

PETER RIDDELL

Blair starts raising cash to repay £1m donation

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR will begin the task of raising money to pay back Bernie Ecclestone's £1 million donation when he addresses Labour's wealthiest supporters at a £250-a-head gala lunch next month.

Mr Blair and his wife, Cherie, have agreed to attend the Labour Friends of Israel annual lunch on December 9. Senior Cabinet ministers including Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will be present.

The lunch date could pay rich dividends for the party, which is millions of pounds in debt but has to return the Formula One chief's gift after the row over motor-racing's exemption from the ban on tobacco sponsorship of sport. The 400 names on the guest list for the function, to be held at a West London hotel, could have been drawn up by Labour's finance department as it boasts some of the most generous donors to party funds.

Lord Sainsbury of Turville, ennobled by Mr Blair after the general election, will be at one of the top tables. He was reported at the weekend to have given Labour £1 million.

The gathering is being held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of Israel. Mr Blair, who last spoke to the group in 1994, will be in familiar company. Michael Levy, the millionaire record producer who was behind the biggest campaign to bring private enterprise cash into secret Labour Party funds, will be present.

Mr Levy, one of Mr Blair's closest suppporters and his regular tennis partner, is said to have helped to raise £7 million. The money was channelled into blind trusts that financed the office costs of Mr Blair, Mr Brown, John Prescott and Margaret Beckett when they were in Opposition.

Sir Trevor Chinn, the head of Lex Services, who is reported to have given Labour a six-figure sum, is on the guest list along with Sir Emmanuel Kaye, a multimillionaire industrialist who was a donor to Mr Blair's blind trust.

Nick Cosgrave, the director of the Labour Friends for Israel, said: "It will be a chance for the Prime Minister to mingle among old friends and supporters of the party. We have virtually sold every ticket. Mr Blair is a big draw.

"I'm sure there will be no mention of Bernie Ecclestone. He is not on the guest list. But some of the most important people in industry will be there."

The Labour Party will tighten its vetting procedures for potential benefactors in future. A senior party source said: "Having had an episode like this the finance department is bound to look again at how it raises the money. If someone came and started waving a big cheque around more questions would be asked."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that the affair had been an accident waiting to happen. "So let's reassure the public's trust in politics. I have already issued instructions to our party treasurer that we are not going to accept any donations from people who are not prepared to have their names published."

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Tories keep up the pressure

THE Prime Minister was accused yesterday of inconsistencies in the television interview he gave on Sunday to try to dampen the row over the Formula One affair (Philip Webster writes).

Tory MPs also raised a potential conflict in the role of Jonathan Powell, Mr Blair's chief of staff, who was closely involved in fundraising when he ran Mr Blair's office in Opposition. Andrew Tyrie (Chichester) pointed out that Mr Powell knew who the big donors were and now controlled the door to Mr Blair.

John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary, said that Mr Blair had said on Sunday that Labour had told Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One chief, on November 5 that it could accept no further donations from him because of the decision on tobacco sponsorship. Downing Street said yesterday that Mr Powell had telephoned Mr Ecclestone's office that day to make that point clear.

But, Mr Maples said, in its letter to Sir Patrick Neill, the standards watchdog, on November 7, Labour had said that it was consulting him on whether a second donation should properly be accepted.

ALEX LENTATI

House of Lords latecomer: Roy Hattersley with his dog, Buster

Reluctant Roy ready for his robe

BY JAMES LANDALE

HE WANTS the place abolished, hates the idea of becoming an "old codger" and cannot imagine wearing ermine. But after seven months of procrastination, Roy Hattersley has swallowed his pride and finally decided to take his seat in Lords.

"Reluctant Roy", as the former deputy Labour leader became known this summer, will on Monday be gazetted as Lord Hattersley of Sparkbrook and be formally introduced. Biting his lip, he will don his red robes, swear an oath of allegiance to the Queen and doff his hat three times at the Lord Chancellor. He will be one of the last peers to undergo the 370-year-old ceremony, which is to be reformed.

Mr Hattersley was raised to the peerage by John Major when Parliament was dissolved in April. But over the summer he refused to organise his title with Garter King of Arms or fix a date for his introduction. The process usually takes two months.

In a newspaper column in April, he said that the Lords should be abolished and that it would take him a "great effort of will to discuss style and titles with somebody called Garter King of Arms". He added: "Members of the nobility who are offended by my flippancy should understand that I turn hysterical every time I think of taking my oath of allegiance. I have no difficulty with swearing my fealty to the Queen . . . I just cannot imagine myself dressed in ermine robes and taking my hat off as I walk up and down . . . Nor am I ready to face the 'old codger' aspect of being a peer."

Burgundy's rise leaves sour taste for wine buffs

France's top châteaux may be pricing themselves off the market, **Ben Macintyre** writes from Paris

ALAIN ROBERT / REUTERS

An auctioneer takes bids during France's annual Hospice de Beaune charity wine sale, where Burgundy prices soared by 47 per cent

THE rocketing price of Burgundy has reinforced predictions that 1997 could be one of the great vintages, but it has left a nasty taste in the mouths of wine buffs who fear that French wine could become too expensive to compete with newer wine-producing countries.

Prices at the annual Hospices de Beaune charity auction on Sunday, widely regarded as a key quality-barometer for the year's harvest, rose by a remarkable 47 per cent, earning more than Fr20 million (£2.1 million) for the charity hospital founded in the 15th century.

The auctioneers were delighted with the results, but wine experts warned that inflated prices would encourage competing growers to push up their prices and might persuade buyers to see fine French wine as a tipple only for corporate investors or wealthy connoisseurs.

"The inevitable final result is to reduce our competitive edge in an ever more competitive market," the Burgundy Wine Board said.

The highest price of the auction was recorded by the white wine Bâtard Montrachet, which was sold for the equivalent of £50 a bottle, an increase of 78 per cent over last year. Bottling, storing and shipping the wine will eventually more than double the price.

French wine-producers, locked in combat with cheap and plentiful "New World" wines, fear that such high prices will merely increase the *snobisme* associated with Burgundy and other celebrated French wines. "It's sad," Christian Flaceliere, a wine expert, said. "With such prices, people will turn way from overpriced wine in favour of beer and mass-produced drinks.

"Wine is going to become the hobby of a few specialists, locked up in their own culture."

Burgundy has grown steadily more expensive over recent years and industry analysts had expected a price rise of up to 20 per cent, but the sudden huge leap left many wine-makers jittery and in need of a stiff drink.

A combination of favourable climatic factors this year, including a record breaking early harvest, has led to predictions that 1997 will be one of the best vintages in recent memory, but it may also be among the most expensive.

"We are in danger of scaring away buyers," Benoit de Charette, of Maison Pichot, said. The wines on sale in Beaune last weekend were made on 140 acres of land belonging to the Hospices and include some of the most famous names in wine-making such as Corton, Mersault and Montrachet.

The Hospices de Beaune charity for the poor, sick and elderly was founded in 1443 during the Hundred Years War by Nicolas Rolin, Chancellor to the Duke of Burgundy, and the property has grown over the centuries with gifts of land and vineyards in the region. The charity includes a hospice, homes for retired people and a hospital. Part of the profit from this year's sale will be spent on a new cinema for sick children.

While such high prices may put the best Burgundy out of reach of all but the very rich or extravagant, some will get to drink it for free: under the founding rules of the charity, a portion of the new vintage must be reserved for patients in the hospital.

Kohl takes heart as voters swing in favour of euro

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN opposition to European economic and monetary union has started to melt away, much to the amazement and delight of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, who next year has to win a general election shortly after scrapping the mark.

Few opinion pollsters had reckoned with a significant swing towards the euro: for more than two years surveys have shown that two thirds of Germans are opposed to abandoning the mark. The calculation was confused by the two thirds of the nation that also professed support for the Maastricht treaty and a more tightly integrated Europe. It seemed as if the Germans could not make up their minds.

Now it appears that the Germans are ready to swallow the Maastricht pill. A poll commissioned by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation showed that only 45 per cent of Germans were now hostile to the euro, compared with 63 per cent a year ago.

A survey in August by the Allensbach Institute showed a similar trend: 55 per cent in support of the euro (compared with 21 per cent in May) and 45 per cent against (compared with 52 per cent last May). The Konrad Adenauer Foundation is the Christian Democratic think-tank and the Allensbach Institute's findings often come out more supportive of the Chancellor than other pollsters.

Even so the shift is so big it must represent a new mood. "It signifies the breakthrough for the public acceptance of the euro," says Günter Rinsche, chairman of the foundation.

Two factors seem to have played a crucial part. First, the political class has made clear that it will steam ahead with the euro. The figures are still ambiguous: the five "wise men" who advise the Government say Bonn will miss the Maastricht public sector deficit by 0.1 per cent, the opposition Social Democrats say there will be an overshoot of 0.25 per cent.

However, the Government stubbornly insists it will hit the target at exactly 3 per cent of gross domestic product and qualify for the euro.

The second crucial factor was probably Herr Kohl's personal decision to stand for re-election next year. The euro is his project and voters still trust him to fight for a strong currency.

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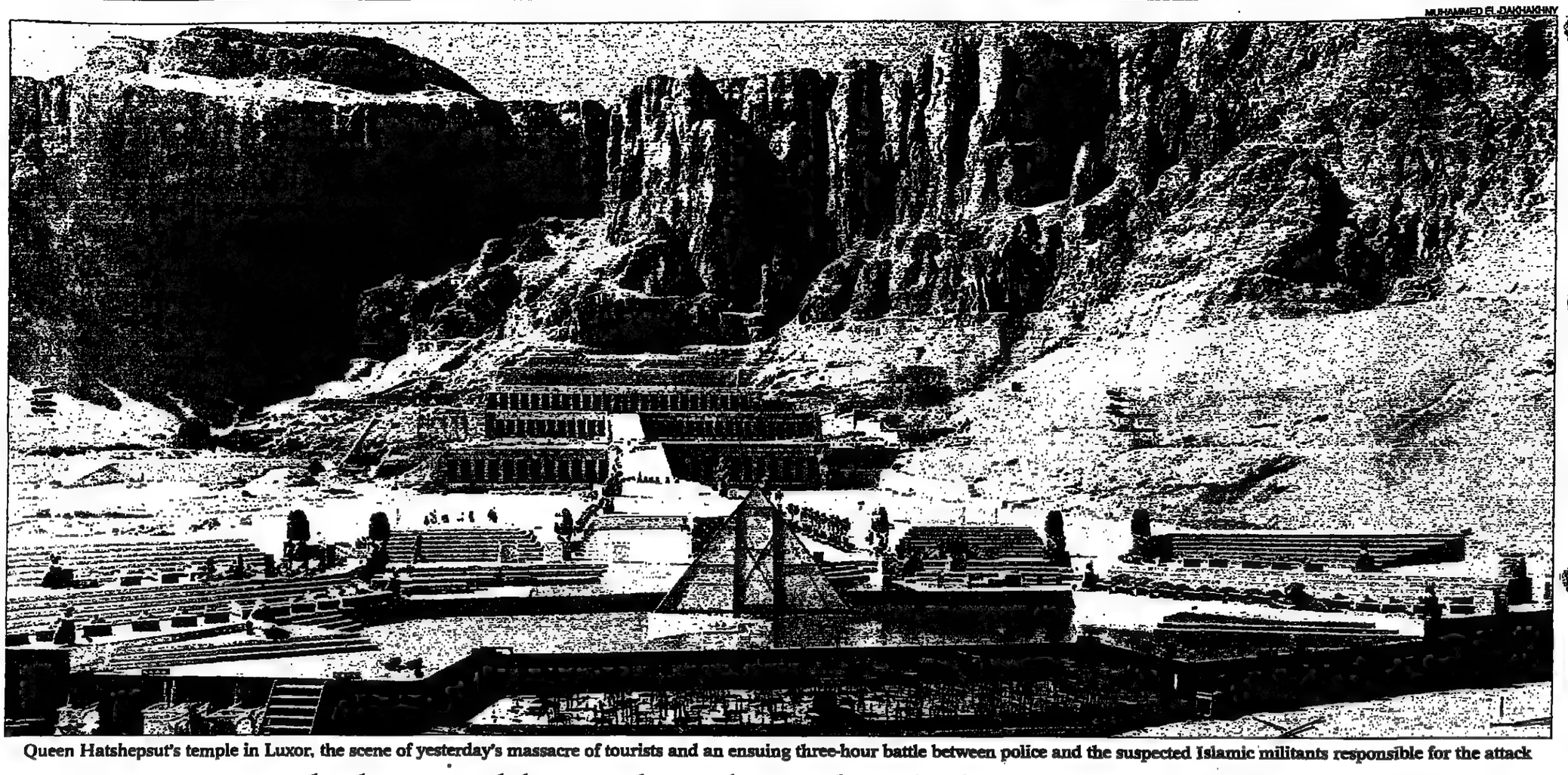
MUHAMMED EL-DAKHAKHNY



Queen Hatshepsut's temple in Luxor, the scene of yesterday's massacre of tourists and an ensuing three-hour battle between police and the suspected Islamic militants responsible for the attack

Tourist bloodbath deals blow to Mubarak

President has lost his battle against militants to convince visitors Egypt is safe, **Christopher Walker** writes

THE tourist bloodbath yesterday in the shadow of Luxor's magnificent Pharaonic temples dealt a fatal blow to attempts by President Mubarak to convince the world that his five-year campaign against Islamic militants is showing signs of success.

A leading London-based Arab commentator, Ali Ibrahim, claimed that the attack had been designed to do the maximum damage to his moderate, pro-Western Islamic regime. "It will kill the tourist season," he added.

Coming a month after the militants slaughtered 11 policemen in the southern Egyptian province of Minya, their biggest ever toll of security men in a single day, the mass murder of so many tourists was seen as evidence that the extremists have regrouped and embarked on a new wave of violence.

Even before the full horror of the latest attack became apparent, more than doubling the number of foreigners killed since the main Islamic terror organisation, al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, launched its struggle to topple the regime in 1992, there were dire warnings in the semi-official Cairo press about complacency on the part of the Government.

"Our security officials have to stop parroting their routine boasting: 'Terrorism is vanquished! We have annihilated the remainder!'" warned Samir Ragab, editor of the *Egyptian Gazette*, the daily read by most tourists in Cairo, and one of Egypt's most influential journalists.

The choice of the tourist industry as a target was made primarily because of its importance as the second largest earner of foreign currency — after remittances sent from Egyptians working abroad — and thus a major prop of what the militants refer to scathingly as "the apostate regime of President Mubarak".

In a statement after a previous attack against a tourist target, the al-Gamaa — whose name means the Islamic Group — claimed that it would continue its struggle "until an Islamic state is established in Egypt and the criminal Mubarak is killed in just retaliation".

With a turnover estimated at more than £2 billion, the tourist industry is the most vulnerable sector of the economy. It is calculated that as many as ten million — roughly one in every six of the 61 million Egyptians — rely on it to some extent for their livelihoods.

"Ten million Egyptians eat from tourism," said one former Cairo-based diplomat. "It is no wonder that many ordinary Egyptians are fed up with fundamentalist attacks."

Yesterday's shootings, planned with military-type precision, were timed to do maximum damage to the industry. It was launched just at the start of the winter tourist season in Upper Egypt, the home of many of the most spectacular sites, and at a time when senior Egyptian tourist officials were attending a big conference in London to promote visitors from Europe.

These had suffered a severe blow in September when nine German tourists and their Egyptian driver were shot and killed in their bus outside the Egyptian Museum in the heart of Cairo. Although the culprits were described as mentally ill by the Government, they too professed sympathy with extreme Islamic ideals and were claimed by diplomats to have been armed by a network of sympathisers in the city's slums.

The two attacks came as the battered tourist industry had been showing signs of picking up again after the crippling damage inflicted by the al-Gamaa in 1993 and 1994 with its attacks on trains, Nile cruisers and tourist buses.

Almost 450,000 foreigners visited Egypt in August, the highest figure ever for a single month. In 1996, a total of four million tourists arrived and officials had hoped that figure would be exceeded this year.

Recently Mr Mubarak, whose Government is accused of corruption, had refused an offer of a dialogue from the Islamists, although Hassan al-Alfi, his Interior Minister, welcomed a truce call issued by some imprisoned militant leaders as a useful start.

Like his counterparts in Algeria, Mr Mubarak, a former air force commander, is determined to crush the militants militarily. However, diplomats say that he has underestimated the splits inside the Islamic movement and the pressure from extremists exiled abroad for unrelenting violence.

The anti-Mubarak militants receive logistical support from neighbouring Sudan and ideological backing from Iran. Their leaders have repeatedly expressed belief in an updated version of the old domino theory once centred on Vietnam: that if the Egyptian Government falls, many other moderate Islamic regimes in the Arab world will follow suit.

More than 1,100 people have been killed since the militants began a series of attacks aimed at overthrowing Mr Mubarak.

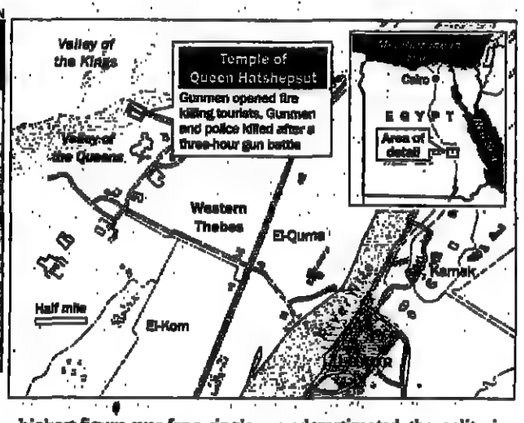
Although he has recently been taking steps to streamline the over-centralised economy, little has been done to eliminate the social ills on which the fundamentalists thrive. They have threatened that he will suffer the same fate as his assassinated predecessor, Anwar Sadat. More than half the population cannot read. Unemployment among graduates in some cities is 80 per cent. The administration is strangled by red-tape and cronyism, with allegations of corruption reaching into the Mubarak family and only stifled by a draconian series of repressive press laws.

The key to Mr Mubarak's survival has been the 400,000-strong army and his ubiquitous internal security network, the Mukhabarat. But senior Western diplomats have expressed concern that the long-serving President has become surrounded by sycophants who are shielding from him the growing unpopularity of a regime supported by one of the most shamelessly rigged electoral systems in the Arab world.

Leading article, page 23

REUTERS TELEVISION

A wounded tourist is carried onto a helicopter to be flown for treatment in Cairo



Britain and US offer Saddam end to sanctions

By Tom Rhodes in Washington, Michael Theodoulou in Nicosia, James Bone in New York and Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

DIPLOMACY

AMERICA and Britain yesterday backed away from a military confrontation with Iraq, offering a joint proposal to lift sanctions against Baghdad if President Saddam Hussein complied with United Nations resolutions to inspect his weapons facilities.

The proposal, worked out between Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, would result in a *gradual lifting* of sanctions while assuring compliance with the UN mandate to allow weapons inspection teams into Iraq.

Mr Cook yesterday telephoned his French and Russian counterparts to bolster political and diplomatic solidarity with new proposals to be put jointly to Saddam.

The proposals offer Saddam "light at the end of the tunnel" by promising to make more food and medicine available to Iraq and giving firmer guarantees on eventual lifting of UN sanctions.

The four permanent UN representatives have concluded that, as military action appears increasingly problematic, they must step up their diplomatic drive. In talks yesterday with Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr Cook discussed a possible Russian mediation. Mr Primakov, who visited Baghdad before the Gulf War, is a Middle East specialist with strong connections to Iraq. He may undertake a new round of shuttle diplomacy that this time would have the full backing of his Security Council partners.

At Russia's urging, the UN plans to convene a meeting on Friday of the 21 commissioners who provide technical advice to the UN Special Commission (Unscom) charged with ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

Russia is trying to transform the commissioners from an advisory council into a governing body empowered to provide political direction to Richard Butler, the Unscom chairman, and his senior staff. By doing so, Russia apparently hopes to meet Iraq's demands for a restructuring of Unscom to reduce the influence of America and undercut the power of Mr Butler. The Unscom commissioners usually meet every six months, most recently in October, to review the progress of the UN inspectors, but have no procedure for decision making.

Officials said that the plans Mr Cook discussed yesterday were intended to reassure Saddam that he would not face a permanent US veto on lifting sanctions. He would be told what were the main allied requirements and then assured that sanctions would be lifted on his compliance.

Although the White House yesterday firmly rejected an Iraqi compromise that would specify the nationality of those on the Unscom teams, it became clear that a big diplomatic push was under way to resolve a crisis that has lasted almost three weeks.

President Chirac of France said he sensed "some form of detente" while Western diplomats in the Gulf complained that the military option had been "talked up too much". Most Arab countries also favour setting Iraq a firm timetable to divulge its weapons secrets in return for a schedule to lift sanctions.

"Iraq does not seek conflict with the United States and if there is a solution to the crisis, we would be happy," Saddam declared on Sunday.

Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, suggested that US weapons experts could return if their numbers were equally matched by inspectors from the other countries with permanent seats on the UN Security Council. His offer was rejected as impractical by Unscom's Mr Butler, who also insisted Iraq could not be allowed to dictate the composition of his teams. Mr Butler said Iraq's compromise to allow the return of inspectors to Baghdad could signal the beginning of a diplomatic solution to the crisis. At the UN, Mr Butler said any change in the national composition of the teams did not alter the fundamental question about Saddam's arsenal. "I don't know how changing the nationality is going to change the objectivity of the science, but let's see," he said. "Maybe this is the beginning of a diplomatic way out of this crisis."

JOHN MOORE / AP

Aaron Perez, a flight deck crew member of the carrier *USS Nimitz* in the Gulf, catches a moment's rest against the fuel tank of a US warplane

America considers how to bring about the death of a President

From Ian Brodie in Washington

ASSASSINATION DEBATE

Stephanopoulos: said Saddam must be killed

A DEBATE is growing in the United States over the moral and practical issues of assassinating President Saddam Hussein.

George Stephanopoulos, formerly a close aide to President Clinton, said: "We should kill him." Thomas Friedman, foreign affairs columnist for *The New York Times*, has discussed a "head shot" for Saddam. An essay in *Time* asks: "Isn't it moral — as with Hitler in 1938 — to take this one life before he takes thousands more, or hundreds or even one?"

Targeting Saddam is not that simple. He is wily, uses doubles, frequently purges his inner circle, has his food checked for poison and has spent years shuttling among dozens of residences to evade his many enemies.

Norman Schwarzkopf, who led allied forces during the Gulf War, recalled at the weekend how every Iraqi command-and-control centre was bombed in the first three days of the conflict. "Obviously that meant we were attacking places where we thought Saddam would be, but he wasn't there," the general said. "Somehow he received advance word we were coming, or he was just darned lucky."

General Schwarzkopf said he has concluded that Saddam is impossible to find without an intelligence network in Iraq with inside information about where he will be. Even if allied forces had continued to Baghdad at the end of the war, he was quite sure they would still not have found Saddam.

Both the general and George Bush, the former President, remain convinced that the Gulf War coalition would have ruptured if the Americans and British had attempted to press on to eliminate Saddam when they seemed to have him on the run. In a BBC2 documentary, *The Search for Peace*, to be aired on Sunday, Mr Bush declares: "I know the French would have left us in a minute. I know the Egyptians and Turks have been gone and Syria would have been long gone had we rolled into Baghdad." He adds: "Who's going to find the most secure potentate dictator in the world?"

Execution of foreign leaders by government agents was outlawed by Executive Order 12333 signed by Ronald Reagan as President. It says: "No person employed by or acting on behalf of the United States Government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassination." This ban was the result of revulsion over a string of American plots to assassinate President Castro of Cuba and other leaders who were not to Washington's liking.

As for Saddam's hoped-for demise, Richard Haass, White House Middle East expert during the Gulf War, told *Time*: "I have yet to see anything remotely persuasive about how you could take out Saddam. A wish is not a policy."

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Aboriginal art world is rocked by fresh scandal

Welshman claims to have painted many prized indigenous works

Roger Maynard writes from Sydney

A WELSHMAN who claims to have produced some of Australia's most valuable indigenous paintings has found himself at the centre of a scandal that could undermine the Aboriginal art industry.

Ray Beamish, who used to live with Kathleen Petyarre, the prize-winning Aboriginal artist, has alleged that he is the main painter of many of her works, which have a combined value of hundreds of thousands of pounds. He claims to have developed the distinctive "sacred women's dreaming" style of painting that was attributed to his former partner.

Beamish also says he is the main painter of her *Storm in Atnangkere Country II*, which won Australia's most prestigious and longest-running Aboriginal art award, the 1996 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award.

If true, the allegations overshadow any previous scandal about the identity of Aboriginal painters, including last year's disclosure that an elderly West Australian pastoralist, Elizabeth Durack, had successfully misled Australia's art world by pretending to be an Aboriginal artist called Eddie Birrup.

Susan McCulloch, the co-author of the *Encyclopaedia of Australian Art*, said: "What this means in the broader context is that a storm of serious proportions will hit the Aboriginal art industry. Now, for the first time, a big indigenous-only prize has been won by what I believe to be a non-authentic work."

The controversy came to light amid tension surrounding the couple's recent separation and mounting professional jealousies between rival art dealers.

According to Beamish the idea for the Telstra award-winning work was his alone and he painted at least 90 per cent of it. "She probably would have done a day's dots," he said.

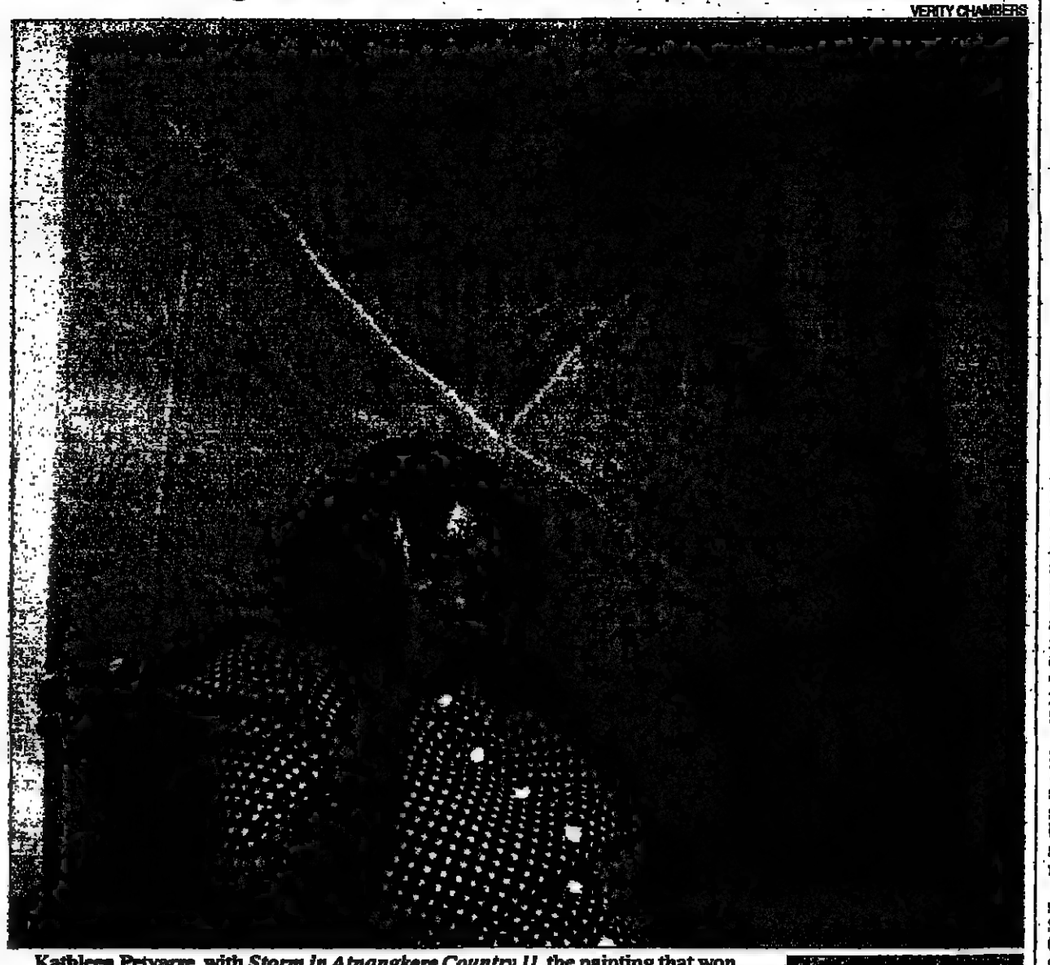
Ms Petyarre has also admitted that her ex-partner had worked with her on some of her paintings, including "the middle" of the Telstra work. However, in a statement issued later by her lawyers she insisted that he had only helped her in "marking out the canvases" and maintained that she was "the author of any of the paintings signed by me". She said: "I have been given these Dreamings by my grandfather and only me and my sisters are allowed to paint our stories."

While these latest allegations will send shock waves through an industry that generates millions of pounds on the international art market, some observers believe it will also force the industry to address fundamental questions over authorship. Fuelled by admiring comments of critics and curators, many Aboriginal painters have found their work suddenly worth thousands of pounds. Gallery owners who used to enjoying fat commissions for selling indigenous paintings of sometimes questionable quality also have a vested interest in the continued growth of the market. Many experts have promoted Aboriginal works of art as Australia's only true artistic heritage, likening them to the equivalent of Turners and Constables.

When Durack, who is of Irish descent, revealed that Birrup was merely a figment of her imagination, the 82 year-old white woman embarrassed the cognoscenti and infuriated the nation's indigenous artists.

Ms McCulloch said she believed the latest claims could only help towards a general industry clean-up. "Any hints that things may not be as they seem make potential purchasers extremely wary and can cost millions of dollars in sales — a great pity considering the amounts of fair dealing and genuine art which is around," she said.

VERITY CHAMBERS



Kathleen Petyarre, with *Storm in Atnangkere Country II*, the painting that won her a prestigious Aboriginal art award. Her contribution to the work is in dispute

Beamish: claims he is the main painter

New York pigeon poisoner makes city no-fly zone

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

POLICE and animal welfare groups in New York are engaged in a frantic search for a serial killer who, operating at night, has poisoned thousands of the city's pigeons.

Large clusters of pigeon carcasses were discovered last week on the plush Upper West Side, where pigeons are normally better fed than in any other part of New York. Numerous dead birds have also been found in the city centre, as well as Greenwich Village, suggesting that the poisoner is on an "extermination mission".

New York is home to many hundreds of thousands of pigeons, so a few thousand dead does not signify a demographic disaster. Pigeons here are not only ubiquitous, they are also bold, noisy, pushy, greedy and dirty. In fact, many in the city are quietly applauding the killer, in a manner reminiscent of Londoners who cheered last year when someone stole over 2,000 pigeons from Trafalgar Square.

Reflecting city-wide sentiment, Elizabeth Warburton, a Briton living in New York, said: "I hope this doesn't sound callous, but I cannot bring myself to disapprove of someone who wages war on a menace like these pigeons."

However, Peter Parris, a spokesman for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, took a less sympathetic view of the matter. Speaking to *The New York Times*, he said: "We feel that this is someone who truly hates pigeons and could be a very disturbed person." Mr Parris, however, added darkly: "He may not stop at pigeons. Who knows what other animal he may dislike?"

The killer's night-time modus operandi is simple. He (or she) first laces breadcrumbs and birdseed with a lethal pesticide called carburofan, and then scatters the poisoned food at strategic points where pigeons are known to congregate.

When the birds awaken, they feed to their fill before departing, poisoned, to another world.

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Corporate giants win supporting role at La Scala

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE troubled La Scala opera house, which staged the premieres of operas by Verdi and Puccini and flourished under Toscanini, yesterday passed into the hands of a private foundation funded by a who's who of Italian industry headed by Pirelli, the Milan-based company famous for both its tyres and its calendars.

Riccardo Muti, the conductor and La Scala's artistic director, welcomed the "rejuvenation" of the opera house, but warned investors not to overstep their role by trying to "interfere in La Scala's artistic life or dictate its choice of productions".

The privatisation scheme is the brainchild of Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture, with the support of Carlo Fontana, the opera director, and Signor Muti. Under a new Italian law, all 13 opera houses will become private foundations — with both private and public funding — by June 1999. The experiment, with La Scala leading the way, will be watched by other opera houses, including the Royal Opera House and English National Opera.

Ticket sales cover only 20 per cent of the running costs of Italian opera houses, and the rest has until now been met by central and local government. Under the new scheme at La Scala, private companies will have a 40 per cent holding, with public authorities controlling 60 per cent. The state will provide £33 million annually, with Pirelli giving £2 million, and banks and insurance companies footing the rest of the bill.

Signor Fontana said private companies would not just have a "supporting role" but would be part of the opera house and its decision-making process. "This is more than sponsorship, which has not always been a constructive factor in the music business," Signor Fontana said. He said La Scala might cut costs further by sharing productions with the San Carlo Opera House in Naples and La Fenice Opera House in Venice, which burned down in January last year but is due to reopen "as it was, where it was" by 2000.

Signor Muti said the new La Scala Foundation needed "iron cast written rules" to ensure that "absolute liberty and artistic autonomy" were safeguarded. He said he hoped privatisation would enable La Scala to "re-live its golden age and recapture the spirit of the 1920s, when under Arturo Toscanini it was a model for the world of opera".

He added: "But I say to the private investors, let us understand each other clearly: by investing money you do not acquire the right to decide whether it is better to stage Luigi Spontini's *The Vestal Virgin* or some other lighter, romantic opera."

Corriere della Sera, which is published in Milan, said the mixture of public and private funding would "liberate La Scala from the paralysing regulations and asphyxiating bureaucracy of the public sector". But Sergio Escobar, head of the Rome Opera, said he feared that opera administrators would inevitably "respond to the laws of supply and demand", and the quality of productions would fall.

Anna Caterina Antonacci performing at La Scala

US Jews attack Israeli 'identity' Bill

Netanyahu is at the centre of a row over who can claim to be a Jew, Tunku Varadarajan writes

AMERICAN Jews, enraged by a Bill before the Knesset that would give Orthodox rabbis a monopoly over conversion to Judaism, have dealt a hostile reception to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, who is visiting the United States.

Reform and conservative Jews constitute more than 80 per cent of America's Jewish population, and their leaders argue that the Bill effectively relegates them to the status of "second-class Jews". Mr Netanyahu, who relies on 23 Orthodox MPs to keep his rickety parliamentary coalition afloat, has expressed support for the Bill, thus drawing criticism in America.

According to *The New York Times* yesterday, the Bill has upset Jews here so much that many are redirecting their donations to non-governmental organisations in Israel, or even to causes that bear no relation to Israel.

Talking about the "who is a Jew" Bill, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, a leading conservative scholar at New York University, said that "there is not an American Jewish family in which there is not a convert by Reform or conservative rabbis". He added: "When Israel starts carrying on and saying these are not Jews, we are being informed that many of our nieces and nephews and, alas, some of our children and grandchildren are not Jews. And that is what people care about."

Gary Tobin, director of the Cohen Centre for Modern Jewish Studies, said that American Jews, given their high rate of intermarriage with non-Jews, "do not want anyone telling them that their children are not really Jews".

Mr Netanyahu was hissed and booed when he addressed a meeting in Indianapolis on Sunday, organised by the American Council of Jewish Federations. Many wore buttons on their lapels that said: "Israel, don't write off four million Jews."

Anticipating the hostile reception, Mr Netanyahu had a conciliatory speech prepared for the gathering, in which he insisted that there was "no such thing as a second-class Jew". In an impassioned address, he said: "I would like to express myself . . . as a friend who is deeply and acutely aware of your bewilderment and pain. I want to state as emphatically as I can: no one, nobody, can deprive a Jew of his Jewishness.

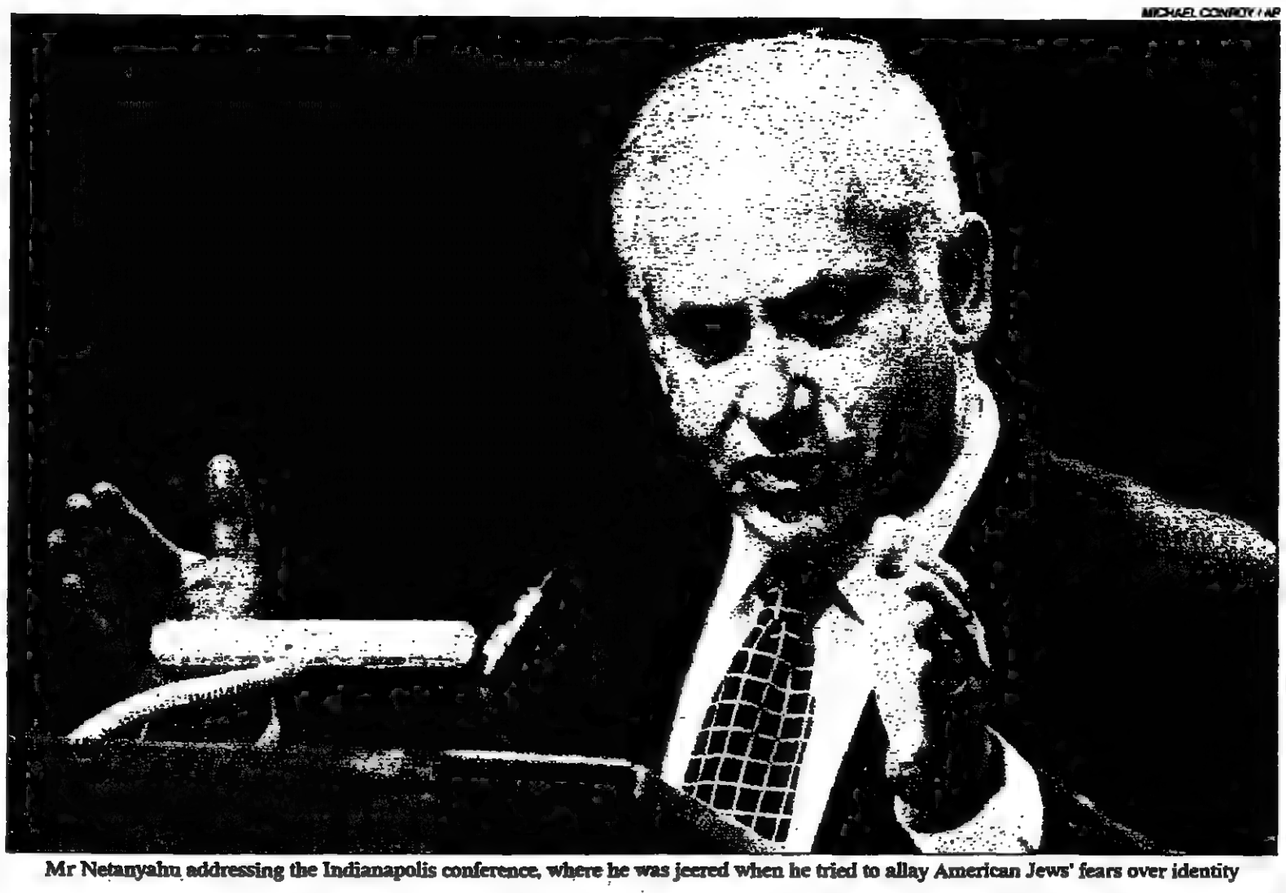
"No power on earth can rob any Jew of his or her identity. There can be no such thing as a second-class Jew. Every Jew — every Jew — is a legitimate Jew. Period. We are all equal before God."

In words that will now earn sharp criticism for him from Orthodox quarters back home, Mr Netanyahu said: "The membership in our faith and in our people is not the exclusive domain of anyone." It is this exclusivity, however, that Israel's powerful Orthodox lobby lays claim to, and which the Prime Minister has endorsed in the recent past.

Mr Netanyahu's words, which appeared to soothe some American leaders — but failed to convince others — coincided with inflammatory remarks made in Jerusalem by Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

The rabbi, whose words have been latched on to by American Jews as evidence that "something is rotten in the state of Israel", said: "The Reform do not belong with the people of Israel. These people should be cast out, vomited out, so that they will not remain in Israel." The religious Shas party has ten seats in the Knesset, and Mr Netanyahu's words in Indianapolis will have infuriated the grassroots membership.

MICHAEL CONROY / AP



Mr Netanyahu addressing the Indianapolis conference, where he was jeered when he tried to allay American Jews' fears over identity

Trial of Papon suspended

Papon: doctors said he was unfit to stand trial

Paris: The trial of Maurice Papon was suspended yesterday when the ailing former bureaucrat accused of crimes against humanity during the Second World War was taken to hospital suffering from double pneumonia (Ben Macintyre writes).

M Papon, 87, who stands accused of deporting more than 1,500 Jews to Nazi death camps, was declared unfit for trial after being examined by doctors at a Bordeaux hospital.

The court ruled that hearings would not resume until November 27 at the earliest. The trial was due to be completed by Christmas, but M Papon's failing health has already caused delays and the legal process is now expected to last well into next year.

The former senior official of the collaborationist Vichy regime has lost 13lb over the past ten days according to his lawyers, who bitterly rejected suggestions that M Papon was feigning illness to avoid difficult cross-examination on his wartime role.

"No one can doubt M Papon's desire to see this trial through to the end. . . to talk of defence tactics is shameful," Marc Varaut, his lawyer, said.

Centre Left sweeps Italian local elections

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY'S ruling centre-left coalition won a series of stunning victories in Sunday's local elections, according to results published yesterday with the left-wing mayors of Rome, Venice and Naples returned to power with landslide majorities.

The result was seen as a further boost for the Government of Professor Romano Prodi, and a crushing defeat for the Centre Right led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Prime Minister, whose leadership of the Opposition is in serious doubt.

La Stampa said that only 18 months after it lost the last general election, the Centre Right — an increasingly uneasy alliance of Signor Berlusconi's Forza Italia, the "post Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale led by Gianfranco Fini, and two small parties formed from the remnants of the once mighty Christian Democrats — was "falling apart".

Three mayors scored personal triumphs, including Antonio Bassolino, the popular former Communist Mayor of Naples, who won 73 per cent of the vote. Italy's left-wing city administrations have benefited from cash pumped into millennium projects and government job creation schemes. In Venice Massimo Cacciari, the left-wing philosopher, won 65 per cent of the vote and in Rome Francesco Rutelli, the photogenic former Green, won 60 per cent.

Signor Berlusconi said the turnout had been relatively low at 76 per cent, and the the mayors had attracted votes because they were popular rather than because they were left-wing.

But most newspapers echoed Signor Cacciari's assessment that the vote, involving five provincial councils and 421 city and town councils, underlined the collapse of the Right. *La Repubblica* said Signor Prodi was riding high despite his "austerity budget" to enable Italy to meet the European single currency criteria, and his recent parliamentary pact with the hard Left.

The Centre Right held on to handful of councils, winning Latina, Macerata and Chieti, and may yet defeat the Centre Left in the run-off in Genoa.

WORLD SUMMARY

Hungary votes to join Nato

Bonn: Hungary has voted by an overwhelming majority to join Nato (Roger Boyes writes). The official result of Sunday's referendum showed that more than 85 per cent of voters favoured Nato membership, despite evidence over the past few months of substantial resistance. The turnout was 51 per cent.

China pit tragedy

Beijing: At least 87 miners were killed in a gas explosion at a coalmine in central China. A further 36 were brought out alive but two rescue workers were killed trying to reach them. *(Reuters)*

Banda in coma

Blantyre: Hastings Kamuzu Banda, the nonagenarian former dictator of Malawi, has been flown to South Africa for emergency treatment after being in a coma for two days with pneumonia. *(AFP)*

Sharif in court

Islamabad: Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's Prime Minister, appeared before the Supreme Court after allegedly making slanderous remarks against the Chief Justice. He may be forced to step down.

Nigeria change

Abuja: General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military ruler, said he has dismissed his Cabinet so that some of them could take part in his plan to restore civilian rule to the country next year. *(Reuters)*

Born winners

Paris: A retired French couple called Loterie have won more than Fr10 million (£1 million) in the country's lottery. Their family name was given to an ancestor by hospital officials. *(AFP)*

Time exposure

Geneva: Music boxes and watches featuring clockwork erotica fetched two to three times their estimates at auction here. The biggest surprise was a 1997 Geneva watch that fetched £23,500. *(AFP)*

هكذا من الاصل

Bombs, bullets and sedatives

Englishwoman **Lynne Mastnak** is the only practising psychiatrist in Gorazde, a town where the population is grieving, shell-shocked and, sometimes, dangerous. This is her diary

PAUL LOWE/MAGNUM

"Here, no one is a bystander, everyone is suffering. I am beginning to understand about the expression of grief in this society"

MONDAY

Something has happened in Gorazde. I have the feeling I am on the receiving end of an exponential increase in violence and distress, as if my being a psychiatrist here has suddenly given people permission to go mad. This morning, instead of preparing my seminar, I had to see a young woman who had stopped me in the hospital courtyard two days ago saying she was having a nervous breakdown.

The story is a simple one: Elvira is 18 and she and her husband are refugees from a village near Visegrad (now in Republika Srpska). They share two rooms — a bedroom and living room/kitchen — with his sister and her husband. The latter couple sleep in the kitchen, but the two women were fighting all the time, so Elvira decided to set up separate cooking facilities in the bedroom. This led to an almighty family row, with her husband threatening to leave, and Elvira running out and jumping into the Drina. As she sits there with dark shadows under her eyes, wringing her hands, saying she hadn't wanted to die but did not know what to do, I suddenly recognise her. Back in Britain, I had been seeing her counterpart on the emergency wards at least once a week for two years: there'd been a row with parents or boyfriend the night before and she'd reached for a bottle of paracetamol as one clear way of communicating intolerable distress. Here the river is more accessible, and while I can reassure the girl that she is not going mad, and that getting the family together to talk about the conflict might provide a more lasting solution than the injections of diazepam she has been getting from the emergency room, I cannot provide new accommodation or any possibility of a return home.

In the afternoon two social workers interrupted a crucial seminar to ask if I could come and see another 18-year-old who had been holding her family at bay with a shotgun, and threatening to kill herself. When, after some hours, the police had disarmed her, she had bitten them and become highly disturbed. At the police station we talk and she tells me of her best friend's suicide in front of her a year ago, also with a shotgun, which she replays and replays in her mind. She is certain that she will try to kill herself again if given a chance. My immediate choice is between admission to the intensive care ward in Sarajevo or to a police cell. The police tell me the cells are full and the hospital social worker tells me it is too late for a car to take the "blue route" through Republika Srpska (RS), which means using the "Corridor" over Grebac mountain, but as yet the hospital ambulance is not back from a journey to Sarajevo. Dr A in the emergency room says it's not her problem. If the girl shoots her family and herself it certainly will be, I shout. The trouble with shouting through my translator, Dzibrila, is that she gets the flak from me, and Dr A just gets Dzibrila's careful moderate tones. Never mind: I got my ambulance and a nurse escort. I cannot raise anyone at the Kosevo hospital in Sarajevo on the phone, so I write a letter and pray they will accept her.

> Gorazde did have a psychiatrist once. He left for Austria

Before I came out here, I thought the "Corridor" promised by the Dayton peace plan was a decent highway, like the road to West Berlin, linking the former enclave of Gorazde safely to the Bosnian Croat Federation without going through RS. The reality is four parallel lines on a map and a single track road that is benignly named "Canary" on the Ifor maps and on little white placards beside the road. The name doesn't seem particularly appropriate for a route that is in large part a dirt track and that switchbacks across mountains, taking four hours to drive in the winter. There is a bus twice a day that goes through RS and takes only two hours, but when Dzibrila was on it a few weeks ago, it was stoned by four youths outside Rogatica, glass shattering by her head. Cars with Gorazde numberplates are often stopped by Serb police who offer the driver the choice between an instant fine and a court appearance. UNHCR has argued that there should be a uniform numberplate for the whole country so that it is impossible to identify a driver's origin, but there is no sign of this being implemented.

TUESDAY

Lunch at Médecins sans Frontières, then back to the "counselling flat". This is the small rented apartment I use for seminars, group and family work, and individual work with children. Once a week, four GPs come from the hospital for a two-hour seminar in psychological medicine. Given their workload I am both touched and impressed by their persistent interest, but they know that unless the Ministry of Health pulls its finger out, when MSF leaves there will once again be no psychiatrist in Gorazde. The town did have a psychiatrist once. He left for Austria with his two children at the beginning of the war. There is an excess of psychiatrists in Sarajevo, but none of them wants to move here. Part of this is metropolitan snobbishness: mostly it is uncertainty about the future of the town.

WEDNESDAY

Word seems to have got round among the Bosnian Army soldiers that I am OK. Another new one came today, with a painful story of beating and imprisonment. He has already given testimony at The Hague and the story had a slightly rehearsed feel about it. Repeated telling is clearly not enough, however. Before I arrived I was worried that working through an interpreter would be too inhibiting, but my patients tell me they don't mind. Indeed, they prefer the fact that I am an outsider, saying that they could not talk this way to someone local. In the afternoon 11 children come for a bereavement group, which I run with Amra, the local paediatric nurse. Every one of the children has lost at least one parent during the war. At the assessment interviews it was the remaining parents who burst into tears: the children were calm, serious and attentive. The children seem to love their group, perhaps because it is their only chance to talk like this. Last week we discussed change and loss. Today each child told us exactly who had died, and as we went round the room listening to each solemn declaration — my father was shot on the front line, my mother was hit by a grenade in the bathroom, my father was hit by snipers in the street — it was Amra and I who were crying.

THURSDAY

I am beginning to understand a little more about the expression of grief in this society. One of my patients today was a middle-aged man who lost his 12-year-old daughter three years ago: she was hit by a grenade when playing outside. He has never cried. He believes it would be wrong to do so, as parents crying over children fill the grave with tears, and prevent the child being happy in paradise. Like so many I see, he has terrible chest pain. "This is not an imaginary pain," I tell him, "your heart aches with grief." This makes sense to him, but he still prefers not to talk about it and I do not necessarily think that the insistence on the expression of emotion, beloved by Western psychiatrists, will be healing if it goes against the grain of what he believes to be right. Here, no one is a bystander, everyone is suffering.

MONDAY

Another emergency, another angry soldier. Semir is tall, thin, flushed and articulate. Words pour out: he believes the retreat from the Serb offensive in 1994 was mishandled by the Bosnian Army and that was why his best friend died; he fantasises about blowing up the café where "those responsible" drink. I hear similar stories from others. With Nedjad it is fury at the local police, who, he feels, had a cushy war while he was on the front line, and now they have jobs and swagger around in their uniforms. There is one in particular he would like to kill: indeed he had his shotgun with him the other night and thought of using it. This is my other problem — how to assess dangerousness.

They are angry, resentful, irritable and on drugs of various kinds; most have access to dangerous weapons and have spent the past four years having to kill people in order to survive. I have already sent one obviously psychotic young man to Sarajevo in handcuffs. Nedjad is not psychotic, and I hope that ventilating his feelings once a week, and promising to leave his gun at home in the evenings, is enough for now. Semir, on the other hand, is very ill: besides his anger with his own side, he has developed paranoid ideas about his wife, suspecting her of creeping out every night to have an affair. He imagines noises and hallucinates faces in the house. He knows he is sick, however, and wants to take medication; his wife is supportive and understanding and neither wants him to go to hospital. I have sedated him with large amounts of anti-psychotic drugs, which I pray will help to change his thinking and give us a chance to talk at a more ordinary pace.

What comes across from all these young men is a feeling of waste, betrayal and hopelessness. They feel that nothing is finished, that there is no point in trying to restart their lives, as who knows when war might start again. So they hang out in the local bars drinking brandy and exchanging prescriptions and rumours. I feel as isolated from the political mainstream as the rest of the population. So I listen, and feel quite unable to offer those things that would be really healing: some feeling of security, some sense of a future, some idea that justice has been done.

FRIDAY

Mrs C came in with her niece this morning and kissed me on the cheek! She is an elderly lady whom I first saw three months ago, one of the old and vulnerable whom the war has tipped back into illness. From what I could piece together she had had a manic episode ten years ago followed by a bout of depression. On her first visit to me she was not interested in giving a history, sitting there in her headscarf and cardigan, waving her arm at me in the peculiar gesture older women have here, a cross between beckoning someone to come close and throwing a lasso — and saying repeatedly "I can't sleep, I can't eat, please give me some medicine". I told her that in England patients complain that doctors are too brief and do not listen, and that it was a first for me to be told I was taking too long. This produced a half-smile, and her niece persuaded her to be patient and answer my questions. Eventually it became clear that she became manic again last autumn when there was news that her son might have been found. He has been missing for four years, since going to the city for food, falling asleep on the journey and getting captured by the Serbs. The hopes of his return proved false and she became ill and was in hospital in Sarajevo. They put her on anti-psychotic medication, but she got very depressed and also seemed to be suffering from the restlessness that such drugs can cause. So I stopped them and started her on anti-depressants. The restlessness has gone, she is now eating, sleeping, and working round the house again. She is very pleased with me, although still not interested in talking.

The World Bank is building

Evacuation from Sarajevo

35 community-based rehabilitation centres for victims of the conflict all around the country. Gorazde will have one and it looks very impressive on paper, although no provision has been made for salaries, so it remains unclear who will staff it. The single intervention that would have the biggest impact on mental health would be implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton agreement: freedom of movement would not only mean that I could get my patients to hospital in safety and that the staff necessary for a decent community mental health service could move to Gorazde, but it would also jump-start the town's economy and enable a return to normal life. The fact of the matter is that Gorazde is under a social and economic siege almost as effective as the previous military siege.

Seka, our programme officer, who has lived here throughout the four-year siege, calls Gorazde and its surrounding pocket of land "the appendix". It is exactly the right shape, has only a vestigial significance for the body politic and is easy to cut off if it gets inflamed. Yet on clear days the Drina turns its own peculiar vivid blue. You can walk across the pedestrian bridge in the centre of the town as children run past you on their way to school. There are freshly painted buildings and young people sitting on café terraces. There are men fishing and an old woman with goats on the riverbank. It is easy to understand why local people still believe this a town worth saving.

● *This is an edited version of an article which first appeared in the* London Review of Books.

The shame of being a luvvie on the dole

Tough benefit rules are forcing 'resting' thespians into roles that are anything but dignified. **Grace Bradberry** reports

As *The Full Monty* continues to break box office records, one section of the population is not laughing: unemployed actors. For them, a nude cabaret routine is not an escapist fantasy but a gruesome possibility — the next time the phone rings it could be the local jobcentre offering something similar.

Signing on has always been a fall-back for the acting profession. Now this situation is under intense scrutiny and actors are being pressurised into taking what they consider is unsuitable work.

Eva Marie Bryer, a 28-year-old actress now appearing in the Channel 4 series *Underworld*, is among those who feel increasingly vulnerable. After five successful years in the business, she has worked only three times this year. Under the current rules, she can restrict her job search to her own profession for the first 13 weeks only. After that, if the jobcentre alerts her to a vacancy, she must apply and will generally be expected to accept the job. So while actresses pray for their agents to phone, they dread a call from the jobcentre — particularly if it has a vacancy in "their field".

In July this year, Miss Bryer received such a call. Would she please come to an interview for modelling work? "I thought, 'Oh no, my agent's going to have a fit'," she says. She was told the job was as an extra for photography. No one could tell her what the pictures were for.

The interview took place at Islington Jobcentre, where the photographer had installed himself behind a screen. "There were loads of other people there and we were all herded upstairs, where we had to fill out a form. It asked us our age, height and so on, but the main question in it, as far as I was concerned, was whether I would object to being photographed nude or partially nude.

"I knew that if I put 'Yes, I do object', I was not going to get this job. In any normal situation for me as an actress, it would have been a straightforward choice. But in this case there was an extra issue: if I put 'no' and didn't get the job, would I then be cut off from the dole? In the end I put that I did object, and hoped and prayed that they wouldn't stop the payments."

Miss Bryer was not the only applicant to have a problem with nude modelling. "We were all given a great big number, and one by one we had a Polaroid taken," she says. "After a while, the photographer came out and said, 'Listen, everybody's asking about the nudity. This is a kosher job, it's for a German firm's annual calendar.' The idea was to have people coming back from a nudist camp in a taxi. 'It will be very tastefully done,' he said. 'No hairy bits.'

"We all tried to laugh. Some guy put his hand up and said, 'What's the partially nude bit?' thinking he might be able to do that. But it was more than a matter of principle. How an actress is viewed makes an enormous difference to the work she is offered. 'This would be ten steps down the ladder,' says Miss Bryer.

> 'It turned out to be a gay cabaret act — and I am not a gay man'

The following day, she called the jobcentre to ask whether she had been chosen. "The man said he had not heard anything. I said, 'Well, I'm not really surprised.' He said, 'Oh, why's that?' 'Did you know we were asked to be photographed nude?'. He said he would phone me back."

There is no suggestion that jobcentre staff deliberately sent clients for nude modelling work. Indeed, they firmly believed that the job did *not* involve nudity. Miss Bryer was, apparently, unnecessarily alarmed by a standard form used by the photographer. She concedes that she was never pressurised into agreeing to nude photography. Her complaint is that the job had not been vetted properly, and that it was unclear how far she was expected to go, as it were, in order to retain her benefit. In the future, however, Miss Bryer may soon lose her right to the dole altogether. At the weekend it was revealed that Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, is considering ending the special arrangements whereby actors are classified as self-employed by the Inland Revenue but as 'employed earners' by the Benefits Agency.

This special status allows actors to offset their expenses against tax, but also to pay higher rate National Insurance contributions. If this right is abolished they will only qualify for means tested benefits, not for the Job Seekers' allowance.

The previous Government dropped similar proposals after Equity, the actors' union, argued that the Treasury would lose revenue if actors and their employers paid lower-rate contributions.

For actresses like Miss Bryer, the changes are a worrying prospect. "It's a nightmare," she says. "It will mean that anyone who starts out with family money will be fine, but for anybody else it will really difficult. I'm panicked by it."

Whether the proposals are implemented or not, Miss Bryer already feels increasing pressure to take work that is potentially damaging to her career. She is not the only one to have faced such situations. Sandy Rees, an agent with the London theatrical company Ken McReddie, was horrified when one of her clients was approached by her local benefits office and asked to apply for work as an extra. "She is an established actress, someone that people would recognise," says Ms Rees. "There is no question that for her, working as an extra would be extremely detrimental to her career.

"She was asked to send in photographs which would be forwarded to 'the relevant people'. There was no way of knowing whether she would be selected. If she was, she would be working for £60 a day — but that is not really the point. Not only would the assignment damage her career, but the whole arrangement was unethical — it turned out that the job was being advertised by an agency in Southend, which would be collecting a fee. "I called the man she had dealt with and explained that taking this job would damage her chances of getting real work. On top of that, it would be through another agency, which would mean her breaking her agreement with us. I got a very sympathetic ear, and nothing came of the whole thing."

Such instances are common, according to Virginia Wilde, the tax welfare benefits officer at Equity. "Since October last year, when the jobseeker's allowance came in, their powers have got much stronger," she says. "Officials can always say, 'Here's a vacancy, you have to go for it'."

Most actors and actresses will not talk publicly about their experiences, for fear of harming their status in the 'eyes of casting directors. "It can be embarrassing, unpleasant and horrible, so the people willing to publicise it are very rare," says Ms Wilde. "You don't want people to get wind of this sort of thing."

And it doesn't only happen to women. One 38-year-old black actor, who describes his local jobcentre as "quite sympathetic", was humiliated to be put forward for a job which "they really thought would be suitable".

The potential employer specified that the applicant must have singing and movement skills. "It turned out to be a gay cabaret act. The job involved wearing leather and singing risqué songs, accompanied by gestures of a sexual nature.

"I said to the group's organiser, 'I don't think this is going to suit me at all. It's obviously intended for a gay actor and I'm not gay.' I asked if he would call the jobcentre to say that I was unsuitable. He agreed."

The future is likely to hold more such encounters. "I have a degree, I trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, I've worked for the RSC and the National Theatre. But I'm also a black actor and it's increasingly difficult to find work at my age. My CV is full of work as a mugger, a young taxi driver and so on. The name Winston appears no end. I'm not complaining. I was very fortunate to get so many jobs playing hooligans. But while other actors would have gone on to play doctors and lawyers, those parts are not there for me. The chap that would get those parts would be white, grey-haired and middle-aged. That is what people expect, even though my local hospital has lots of doctors who look like me."

It would be unfair to lay the blame for such incidents entirely at the door of jobcentre employees. Decisions on which jobs to advertise are left to their discretion. Earlier this year, an MP tabled a parliamentary question after one of her constituents complained at being put forward for what they considered to be an immoral job. Yet despite an amendment to the guidelines issued to Employment Service employees, the position remains far from clear.

Paragraph 200 begins: "Experience has shown that vacancies in the modelling and personal services sector can, on occasion, cause embarrassment and distress to our clients, give rise to complaints and bring the Employment Service into disrepute." However, the next line states: "Legal advice indicates that arbitrary choices cannot be made as to whose vacancies to service and whose not."

The advice that follows includes the telling line: "Ensure that details of the type of organisation are displayed on the vacancy card (ie, escort agency, massage parlour, etc.)". If they are in doubt, jobcentre employees are advised not to advertise the vacancy.

It would be understandable if they were left confused by the rather woolly guidance.

DES JENSON

Eva Marie Bryer, sent by her jobcentre to a modelling interview, was asked if she would object to being photographed nude

Why men can't be just good friends

Philip Delves Broughton was labelled an Aids risk by bankers who think cohabiting males must be gay

Boys together was once clean fun: now it's sleaze and disease

Until Barclays Bank entered my life, no one had implied that I might be a homosexual. Granted, an excess of maternal affection may mean that I would never have made Hemingway feel like a big girl's blouse. But gay? Not unless there is some as yet unexploded corner of my psyche waiting to surprise me.

Barclays became a factor when I decided to buy a place to live in London. My choices were limited: a tiny flat in a good area; a larger flat in a lousy area; doubling up with a friend and buying a decent-sized place in a decent area.

I chose the third option, to pool resources with an old friend from school and university. He is unmarried, but he has rarely been without a girlfriend and is about as gay as Casanova. The bank, however, was not so sure. "Two chaps buying a place together eh?" they thought. "Fishy."

Lester, from Barclays insurance, who wears a ring on his left hand engraved with his initials, telephoned to say that in order to get life insurance to cover our mortgage, we would have to take some special tests.

What tests exactly? "HIV tests," he said.

Was this standard practice?

"No. It's because you are two men buying together."

If one of us was a woman, all would be well. Two men, however, and we are what they call "a risk".

We are a risk not because we might be two ragingly heterosexual men who engage in non-stop, unprotected sex with a chocolate box of exotic partners, or because we might be mainlining heroin from second-hand needles, but rather because we might be gay.

It was no good getting self-righteous with Lester. The housebuying process was already too far gone and we needed his money.

Lester gave me the telephone number of a mobile doctor and the first name of a nurse, Sarah. When I called her, Sarah asked: "When would it be convenient for you and your partner to come in for your HIV saliva test?"

We had gone from being two old friends who thought that two salaries rather than one would carry more clout in the overheated London property market, via the frankly limp-wristed mortgage division of a high street bank and suspicions of a man called Lester to being called "partners" by the nurse at an HIV clinic.

In the eyes of the red-bloods and yahoos of Barclays Premier Banking, we might as well have been Liberace and T. E. Lawrence asking for a pair of one-way tickets to Tangier.

It is lucky we did not stop off along the way to look at wallpaper swatches or else who knows what further presumptions might have been made.

More irritating than the presumptions and suspicions, however, were the possible implications.

For many types of insurance, companies ask applicants whether or not they have previously had an HIV test. Just admitting that you have had one, even if it was negative, can push up your premium on the ground that if you needed to have a test, you could be a risk.

Consequently, many people have these tests done anonymously. When a bank demands the test, however, it becomes impossible to have it anonymously.

The test itself was straightforward enough. I sucked on a papery wad that was then taken off for analysis. Even for someone with a less than orgiastic sex life, the wait for the all-clear is a nervous one.

When the results came through the next day, however, no one bothered to telephone me. The bank's doctor made only one call, to my "partner", to say that both our tests were negative and the mortgage could go ahead.

Lester would probably have deployed his evil manoeuvre even if I had offered to engage in full-blown (but protected) coitus with a female receptionist on the floor of Barclays insurance division to prove my lower risk status.

Now he has his evidence, however, I shall stick on some Mahler, slide on my mules, pour myself a Pink Panther and drink to him.

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Why we all must pay for Oxbridge

The elite need public money too, says Anatole Kaletsky

"Socialism is the language of priorities." This was one of the favourite slogans of Aneurin Bevan, the Labour left-winger who turned out to be the most successful minister in the post-war Attlee Government and whose centenary is celebrated by Britain's dwindling band of Socialist stalwarts this week.

Tony Blair, as we all know, has consigned Socialism to the dustbin. But has he also forgotten Bevan's insight that to govern is to choose? Choosing among the desirable uses of public money is the essence of all active government; setting the right priorities matters more to believers in the positive, creative powers of government than it does to apostles of laisser faire.

This question of priorities will arise in a particularly emotive and surprising manner in the coming weeks, when the Government decides whether to stop a special payment of £35 million which it makes each year to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. This Oxbridge fee, which supports the two universities' unusual system of personal tuition in semi-independent residential colleges, is a drop in the ocean of the Government's £320 billion public expenditure budget. Yet it could become a defining issue for Mr Blair.

> A State serving only the poor would be disaster

To put the matter at its starkest, if Mr Blair eliminates or suppresses the unique characteristics of these two world-renowned universities, he will show that he misunderstands the balance between collective action and economic individualism which underlies his entire political project.

One reason for this has been much discussed. Experience shows that great intellectual advances are most often made in centres of excellence which bring together the best minds in a wide range of subjects. (Think back to the Florence of the Medici or the Athens of Pericles).

There is nothing mysterious about this principle of concentration. It is simply an example of what economists call "increasing returns to scale". This principle also explains the natural clustering of many non-academic economic activities, ranging from finance in the City of London to computer research in California and (dare I mention it?) racing-car production in the Midlands.

In sum, if the Government's only objective were to maximise the intellectual pay-off from every pound it spends on universities, it would do better to concentrate even more of its limited resources on Oxford, Cambridge and a handful of other unquestioned centres of academic excellence in Britain, forcing other universities to tighten their belts even harder.

But surely no Labour Government could contemplate such a policy of giving more money to the richest universities, while taking from the poorer ones and their students?

Here we must return to Nye Bevan's priorities. Having allowed student numbers to grow by 40 per cent with no increase in funding, the Government will clearly have to spend more money on the whole university system, once the present cap on public spending expires in April 1999. But where will this money come from? The answer is equally clear: it must come from a combination of higher taxes (perhaps in the guise of the new student loans) and cutbacks in other departments, ranging from Defence to Social Security. But how can a Labour Government channel scarce resources to universities, which means subsidising the education of the rich and the middle class?

Most present-day Labour politicians are totally floored by this question. They know in their bones that the Government *ought to* support higher education, science, culture and other "elite" activities. But how can they justify spending which favours the middle class? To Nye Bevan, I suspect, the answer would have been perfectly obvious

The provision of cultural "public goods" such as education is one of the main functions of government. The Government's ability to provide these goods to society more effectively than individuals could buy them through the market is among the main reasons why middle-class voters are prepared to support a strong, active Government — and pay for it through their taxes. Public money spent on universities (or on operas) *is* a redistribution to the relatively rich. But such cultural spending is not only beneficial to society as a whole; it is also a necessary condition for retaining the commitment of the relatively rich to the entire system of taxation and public spending. The distributional effects of government activity must be judged not at the level of each individual programme but by the impact of the tax and public spending system as a whole on the gap between the rich and the poor. If the Government never spends on the middle class, it will soon lose its ability to take from the middle class.

As American experience shows, the middle class will gradually turn against the very idea of government if they feel they are getting nothing from government except tax demands.

For politicians such as Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher there was nothing better than to present government as no more than a funnel, which collects the money of the middle class and pours it straight into the maw of the poor and the unemployed. But for Tony Blair, who passionately believes in government's ability to build a stronger society, a State which is seen to serve nobody but the poor would be a disaster.

For Mr Blair, there should be no higher priority than to show that a strong, competent Government is of service to all — and that includes even the Oxbridge elite.

A land fit for Neros

Our countryside is being blighted while the Government fiddles over Formula One

Libby Purves

I have had a happy daydream lately in which a gruff, tough, stoutish, golden-hearted old Labour figure of vaguely 1930s vintage knocks out the dottle from his pipeful of Old Navy shag, claps the questing TV journalist on the shoulder with enough force to set his swivel-chair revolving, and says with a bluff manly bark of laughter: "Hey, lad, steady oop. T'working man likes his fag, and t'working man likes his Formula One, and there's an end to it. Oi, Mandelson, lad! My coat. I can't stop here arguing, there's health and education and crime to be sorted out by tea."

No such luck. Instead we get days of cant and waffle and evasion over the three dullest subjects in the Universe: fag advertising, motor-racing, and whether political parties should admit who gives them money. Of course they should: end of story. Nor am I terribly interested in whether Tony Blair has successfully convinced everybody he is a "straight guy" or whether, as one pundit portentously put it, "the petals really are off now".

Who cares? Who wants bloody petals on a Prime Minister? We have got this Government for five years, so rather than analyse whether we love it enough we should urge and goad it to get on with what needs doing. The Formula One affair is, frankly, the legislative equivalent of rearranging the cutlery drawer while the house is on fire. What about resources for education, the newly published plans to dismantle the NHS internal market, and the debate on welfare provision currently raging between Harriet Harman and Frank Field? These things will change lives, the lives of people who are vulnerable and poor and have few choices. Faffing about with tobacco advertising — if it affects anyone — affects only people with freedom and money enough to make the choice to kipper their own lungs. Why are they such a high priority?

Today there is another issue, equally likely to be obscured by useless politicking. Michael Meacher, admittedly not the showiest of ministers, has promised to toughen up the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. He is preparing a new Bill, "but of course I do have to compete with other ministers" (translation: not a hope).

This is his response to a lobby of 22 groups, from Friends of the Earth to the Marine Conservation Society, who have proposed a Wildlife Charter to give more protection to heathland, estuaries, grassland and moors and to enforce remedy for damage and to make it less financially desirable for farmers to plough grassland and grub out hedges.

Yes, that still happens: these things may sound like old battles, fought and won ten years ago, but they are not. The battle for sympathy did well, so that every schoolchild is at some stage forcibly taken pond-dipping; but meanwhile they are still rooting out hedges, spraying herbicides and pesticides and ploughing up ancient grassland.

The organisations make the point that it is not only sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) that count, but the wider scene: there is absolutely no point protecting a marsh fritillary if you allow its source of food to be destroyed. Anyway, even SSSIs are not safe: in five years from 1991 one in five of them was damaged. So what hope for the next rung down — ESAs, or environmentally sensitive areas, where farmers can get a small subsidy for not wrecking the joint?

Plainly, there is no hope at all for bits of green land with no fancy initials: according to the last Government's made-up figures (adopted zombie-like, unquestioned, by the present crew) this is where we shall build half of the 4.4 million new homes which will be "needed" because of the forecast rate of family break-up.

The new charter is moderate and urgent and uncomfortably well supported by fact. We are losing our native wildlife, animal and plant: species are dying for lack of food, or because their wetland is destroyed by careless extraction by water companies which find it cheaper than fixing leaky pipes. They are being crowded out by invasive, alien crops or concreted over. Governments and local authorities pushed for cash and with an eye on "planning gain" are almost invariably a pushover for any developer who makes noises about green values and "sensitive landscaping". Even when a landowner is found to have done massive illegal damage it is very rare indeed for the culprit to be made to restore it. Sometimes, in any case, it is impossible.

As for the way we treat the sea, don't even let me start on that or you will be stuck here all day with me raving about sand-eels and puffins and seal mortality and the proposal to use the most fragile part of the East Coast as an offshore oil-transfer site. Everywhere in this issue you find muddle and evasion and lack of commitment and unregarded ministers and chronic short-termism. There are Third World countries which have more coherent environmental policies than we do.

I suppose it wouldn't matter if this was some flat, dreary polder or monotonous prairie, the kind of land-lump where you need save only a few square miles to get the general idea of what the rest was like. But we happen to live on a precious jewel. Sailing round it, as we once did in one summer, you gasp at the variety: from marsh and sandling heaths to chalk downlands, granite cliffs, jagged limestone and deep forests.

And that is just the edge. Trek inland and we have quiet meadows, wild moors, holy woodland, tumbling rivers, brooding lakes and broads. To value them you need not hate your own species: varied and quirky to start with, the landscape has accepted centuries of human husbandry to become even more diverse. Its shapes and vistas offer a valuable, visible history lesson about the development and endeavours of man in nature.

Man's interference, though, was previously held in check by his capacities. To live and eat we had to change the face of the land: but because we were weak we did it respectfully, with an eye to natural regeneration. The wildlife thrived on this, existing in cosy symbiosis with the farmer and herdsman (think of the miraculous, almost extinct harvest mouse). The Norfolk Broads and the Somerset Levels, intricately man-made, enriched as much as they destroyed. It is only in a short eyeblink of history that we have grown so powerful with our concrete and our chemicals that for the first time there is a pressing need for us to show mercy towards nature. Most people sense that. Even ten years ago, surveys already showed 87 per cent of the British public worried about the decline of wildlife. And yes, Labour, the urban poor have a right to worry, too. Inner-city primary schools have plenty of small children anxious that by the time they get to go on a country holiday, there might be no more hedgehogs.

The worst thing is that there is no political constituency for this unease. Hence Swampies who prefer tunnels to ballot boxes. The Tories, traditional guardians of the countryside through the medium of beet-faced squires, deliberately let that root die in the 1980s. Baroness Thatcher, it was only too plain, never liked untidy-looking countryside, nor spared a kind word for a homeless toad. But Labour doesn't care either, not deep down. The manifesto said sullenly "We-will-ensure-greater-protection-for-wildlife", in much the same way as a child says "I'll-get-the-homework-*done*," but there is no sign of any engagement of ideas on the subject. Bet you Peter Mandelson wouldn't cross the road to give a pipit an even break.

Face it: they don't care. Look at the unthinking acceptance of the "need" for greenfield building. Look at the sulky, unstudied way in which the Foster foxhunting Bill was first supported, then half-dropped by the Government, for reasons connected more with the Countryside Rally and the obduracy of the Lords than with any real contemplation of the complex, muddy, smelly, frosty realities of a winter morning and an atavistic rural hunting community. I am not saying that Labour has no principles, just that it has no instinct for this particular issue. Somebody has to green the party up.

Perhaps this lobby will help. Otherwise, I can think of worse ploys for William Hague than getting his wellies on and heading out into the meadows and marshes to restore the Tories' lost credentials as guardians of the land.

Phoenix rises in Windsor

Marcus Binney enjoys a quibble with perfection

The restoration of Windsor Castle is a triumph, giving Britain the counterpart of the reconstructed palaces of Leningrad, or the newly furnished interiors at Versailles. Twenty, thirty or even ten years ago such a restoration would have been cautious and underplayed. No longer. This time we have the full monty, opulence not seen in the royal palaces for a century.

But while much is inspired — even flawless — there are some elements which are questionable, bizarre and crude. The new hammerbeam roof of St George's Hall is stupendous, turning a room with the proportions of a railway carriage into a majestic ceremonial hall full of the trappings of chivalry.

What lets it down are the lights, rigidly vertical and set close to the walls, they cast shadows as unfortunate as those on a human face lit from below by candlelight. Apparently they can be adjusted, but much more light needs to be shone diagonally across the room, not just straight up and down.

Giles Downes, the architect who won the commission for all new work after the fire, treated Gothic as a decorative style to be plundered, with all the relish of Horace Walpole at Strawberry Hill. His new doors at the end of St George's Hall present a spider's web of Gothic arches. The bronze lock cases, inset with a grille of interlaced flowers and tassels, have handles beautifully fashioned as roses wound round with dragons.

"We have a lot of St Georges in this hall. I thought we needed a few dragons," says Mr Downes. On the gallery, more dragons hold spears: a little Disneyish perhaps, but marvellously lithe. Behind, in a wonderfully theatrical gesture, the King's Champion appears on a life-size charger in magnificent armour made for the Elizabethan courtier Sir Christopher Hatton.

Downes's tour de force is a jewel of a circular flying staircase. The oak balusters branch like trees and it is hard to work out how they are put together until he explains they are actually cut from solid panels of oak, sacrificing much of the wood in the process.

Downes repeats the trick in the new Lantern Lobby, a glorious umbrella vault with echoes of William Beckford's Fonthill Abbey, and an even more elaborate balustrade of two overlapping branching layers.

Again I find the lighting awkward and curse the window filled with pallid, tinted and frosted glass, such as might have been used in a church restoration of the 1950s. It is in the new chapel that Mr Downes becomes positively bizarre. The new vault is like a fishnet stretched over a dinosaur skeleton. Nor is the colour scheme of stone-coloured walls and blue ceiling much better.

Yet all this makes for better preparation for the explosion of colour and richness that follows in the three state rooms.

The Crimson Drawing Room, awash with lustrous red silk on every wall and chair, gilt furniture and gilt plasterwork, is a positive hymn to the glory of monarchy. Hugh Roberts, the director of the Royal Collections, who masterminded these rooms, says the aim was that George IV should "instantly recognise them". The new inlaid parquetry floor in birch and ebony rivals the best marble but is already suffering from scratches.

Beyond, the Green Drawing Room is ravishing, with emerald green silk that glows like malachite and superbly burnished water gilding. On the doors, prized carved wood trophies from Carlton House gleam like ormolu bronze.

Some 20,000 books of gold, 25 leaves to a book, were used. Not to mention curtains weighted down with fringes, braids and tassels. It's madly extravagant, but like Pavarotti it transforms the whole occasion.

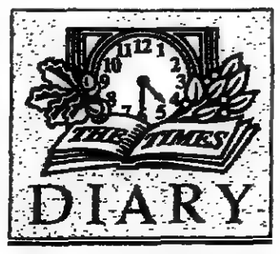
What makes the rooms ultimately is the lighting. On the dullest of November mornings, they are glowing. Chandeliers are ablaze with candles (tiny electric bulbs producing a light as subtle as actual flame). Wall lights and candelabra, where each bulb has its own little shade, produce a superbly festive effect.

No easily visible trace has been left of the fire damage. Neither surviving plasterwork nor parts salvaged from the fire and reincorporated, can be readily distinguished from new work. The desire, superbly fulfilled, has been to create a seamless robe. It recalls the story of a man who took a plate to the restorer. "Do you want it mended the English way or the Chinese?" he was asked. The English way is too mend it invisibly, the Chinese to mark the break with gold leaf because the break is part of the history of the plate., I feel the achievement would be all the more recognisable for leaving a few small panels, highlighting original detail and finishes that escaped damage in the fire and showing how well the quality has been matched.

Less of an achievement is the reopening of huge lengths of vaulted medieval undercrofts, unseen and partitioned off for years.

The state rooms of Windsor reopen on Saturday, December 27. They are a must, and all the better for having a few elements that we can quibble at.

The Right stuff



I KNOW that in this giving age Tony Blair wants to talk to everyone, but does that have to include those who were once at the Fascist end of the political spectrum? Max Mosley, son of Sir Oswald and Diana Mitford, dropped in at No 10 for a friendly chat with the Prime Minister on October 16 this year alongside his business partner, Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One boss. He has also personally donated at least £3,000 to the Labour Party. But, although Mr Mosley happened not to mention the detail during an interview with Simon Sebag Montefiore in last weekend's *Sunday Times*, I can now reveal that he was close to being a *gauleiter* in his father's Fascist organisation.


A Right pair: Diana and son

The Mosley scion, who is president of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, motor racing's governing body, put his name forward in the 1964 general election as a candidate for the Union Movement, a postwar version of the British Union of Fascists and the highest profile anti-immigration group of its day. Despite admitting "it's obvious, knowing what we know now, that it was wrong", further details from Mosley Jr's CV make interesting reading. In 1961, as a 21-year-old Oxford undergraduate, he was fined for obstructing a policeman while he tried to break up an anti-apartheid demonstration in Trafalgar Square. The following year he was quoted by a *Daily Herald* reporter, who went undercover at the movement's meetings, as saying : "In our kind of politics one needs to be as good at a punch-up as talking to a university professor." After the mid-Sixties he renounced his politics, but obviously still has a taste for the corridors of power.

Hamming it

THE reports of the death of old Labour are greatly exaggerated. When John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, had some eco-types round for lunch last week, there was not a cherry tomato, let alone a rocket leaf in sight. Instead, his guests were offered butties made of sliced, white bread and industrial-strength margarine, filled with processed ham and cheese. When one of the visitors complained that he could not get his mouth round the ministerial fare, Mr Prescott beamed: "I like doorsteps." Beer, however, was not on the menu.

● *EVADING Tube fares, Lembit Opik has learnt, can be a costly business. Yesterday found the fresh-faced Lib Dem MP travelling by rail from his Montgomeryshire constituency to Westminster. "I asked on the train for a ticket that would take me to Westminster station, not just to King's Cross," he says. "But when I tried to get off there they told me it was invalid and asked for a £10 penalty fare." Opik refused to part with a penny, filling in a form instead. "I'll be tackling John Prescott about this," he growled.*

Holy wrath

THE latest tome by William Oddie, the high priest of family values, has opened a fresh schism within the Roman Catholic Church. Charles Wookey, Cardinal Basil Hume's senior aide, took such exception to *The Roman Option*, detailing the conversion of prominent Anglicans such as Ann Widdecombe and John Gummer to Catholicism, that he gatecrashed the launch party.


"Let me through — I'm a spin doctor"

With the Holy Spirit coursing through his veins, the cardinal's sidekick headed straight for Oddie and proceeded to abuse him publicly. "He confronted me in a very belligerent manner but it became apparent that he hadn't read the book," recalls Oddie.

● *The Prince of Wales cannot seem to escape his run of bad luck. A few hours before his 49th birthday party at Highgrove was about to begin last Saturday evening, news came of the death of his close friend Lady Tryon. The party went ahead anyway but, even though supper was organically grown, spirits remained rather sombre.*

Bunker shots

STEPHEN DILLANE, the toast of the town after his appearance in *Welcome to Sarajevo*, released this week, almost ruined an earlier career because of a passion for golf. Before breezing into drama, he was employed as a reporter on that august suburban publication, *The Croydon Advertiser*. "He was best known for his golfing prowess," his former news editor tells me. "He had a habit of sneaking off to Purley golf course for a few hours at lunchtime." Obviously, it never proved a serious handicap.


Making news: Dillane

● *IT WAS not a good time for Tourism Minister Tom Clarke to win a free week's holiday in Jamaica. "Will someone please tell Peter Mandelson I've put the ticket back in the draw," pleaded Clarke after he won the raffle at the Guild of British Travel Writers' dinner.*

JASPER GERARD

POWER TO PARENTS

Lessons from the league tables for all parties to consider

The school league tables published by the Government today represent transition. The results themselves were the last achieved under a Conservative Government. The methods by which they have been compiled and presented have been altered this year by David Blunkett. Both parties have much that they can and will point to. The Tories will note the continued improvement in the overall scores and the striking success of many grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges. This, William Hague will doubtless say, serves as a vindication of Conservative reforms — such as league tables themselves — that were initially opposed by the Labour Party.

Mr Blunkett is likely to concentrate his fire on the future. The tables that we publish in our supplement and — in even more detail — on the Internet contain valuable additional information. The introduction of a four-year formula and an improvement index will allow parents to make a more informed assessment. The incorporation of vocational qualifications into these numbers is also a rational development. The Government's plan for an extra "value added" element may prove rather ambitious. The contentious and complicated decisions that this will involve may keep the statisticians in secure employment but are less likely to enlighten the average citizen.

The Department for Education might find its time better spent on a more basic methodological matter. From their beginning, these tables have been centred on the proportion of pupils achieving five high-grade passes in the GCSE examination. This appears to have persuaded schools to place their efforts in ensuring that borderline candidates achieve the maximum number of passes. As a consequence, it is alleged, both the brightest and the least able children have received less attention. A switch in system to one where each pass carries with it a number of points — the average total of which then became the key figure — would alter incentives. Whatever their imperfections, school league tables have been an invaluable innovation and one that this Government has been wise to acknowledge. The continuing resistance of teaching unions does not suggest that academic performance is their highest priority. Mr Blunkett will doubtless be denounced by them but should see that as a compliment. A government that destroyed or diluted this annual exercise would have no credibility on the question of standards.

Core principles have emerged that should be the basis of policy. The first is accountability, in the shape of accessible information on all aspects of school life. The second is autonomy, in the sense that individual institutions should have the maximum possible freedom from their local education authority. The third is diversity in structure rather than the Stalinist singularity of 1970s comprehensives. Fourth comes flexibility in terms of admissions procedure. Fifth is the specialisation that schools should be allowed to nurture and then advertise as distinctive academic emphasis. Those schools that enjoyed the highest aggregate results — and the group of more than 200 schools that have continually improved over the four years — consistently display such features.

The Tories will take this as an affirmation of their stance in office. Labour will doubtless claim that, in practice, the Conservatives were concerned with a small number of children in affluent areas and thus obsessed with selection. Neutrals must come to their own conclusions. The challenge is now what will be done over this Parliament. If Labour acts to spread the core principles that seem to have established themselves in some cases, then it will deserve its own legacy. If it does not, education could quickly re-emerge as a key Conservative issue. All of this will be fought over data that is openly available. Information is power: and that power now rightly rests with parents.

BLOOD ON THE NILE

Fundamentalist terrorism feeds on frustration and repression

The massacre of at least 69 tourists in Luxor is one of the bloodiest crimes ever perpetrated by Islamist activists. The gunmen who sprayed British, Japanese, Swiss and German tourists with machinegun fire killed in one bloody morning more than twice as many foreigners as all those murdered in the random attacks since Muslim activists began their terror campaign five years ago. A further 24 were wounded in events as horrific as they are destabilising. The uncomprehending grief of relatives is matched only by the shame of ordinary Egyptians that a country that was the cradle of civilisation should now be associated with such barbarity.

The attack, the second murderous assault on tourists in two months, is probably the work of the al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, the underground organisation dedicated to the overthrow of President Mubarak and the destruction of Egypt's secular society. Since the assassination of President Sadat, Egypt has fought a long-running battle with militants, hanging dozens of "martyrs" who have been convicted of terrorism by military courts. Police raids, summary trials, the use of torture and intensified security around all the tourist sites have been matched by legislation banning dozens of extremist groups and cracking down on religious fundamentalism. A year ago it seemed as though the most extreme groups had been defeated, their leaders imprisoned, executed or subdued. Tourism, the lifeblood of Egypt's fragile economy, had recovered and even surpassed previous totals. But Hydra-headed, the terrorist monster has returned.

The challenge to President Mubarak is formidable. Despite frequent reassurances on security by tourist spokesmen, the authorities have repeatedly been outwitted and outgunned. The police have bungled anti-terrorist operations and their credibility is at an all-time low. Assyut, a Nile town between Cairo and Luxor with a history of bloody feuding, is now a no-go area for foreigners. A bewildered public sees Egypt drifting into a downward spiral, with the terrifying example of Algeria as a reminder of how bad things could get.

President Mubarak will undoubtedly order a fresh crackdown in response to yesterday's attack. But his uncompromising line is increasingly difficult to enforce. For militant Islam is taking full advantage of the frustration throughout the Arab world with the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process, the growing gap between rich and poor, unemployment, the absence of any legitimate channels through which to express political opposition and the corruption that has accompanied privatisation and economic reform. Throughout the Middle East anti-Americanism is again raising its head, riding on the back of anti-Israel rhetoric and a general anger against the West. Saddam Hussein's renewed challenge to the West is applauded by millions; his incitement to target Western interests is echoed by extremists as a call to arms against Westerners.

Few in the Middle East know how to defeat terrorism. Two enlightened kings — King Hassan of Morocco and King Hussein of Jordan — are attempting, through democracy, to isolate the extremists by giving legitimate opposition a political voice: both have just held elections which have demonstrated their countries' political maturity. Terrorism, however, feeds on frustration and repression. When it vents its anger so terribly on the innocent, governments must look beyond their security forces to deeper causes of malaise.

STREETWISE BIRDS

Pigeons are fine specimens of the survival of the unfittest

They are poisoning pigeons in the park, and not just as the refrain in Tom Lehrer's song. His was a wildly politically incorrect fantasy, and Lehrer's black humour is said to appeal more to the British than to his countrymen. But as our New York correspondent reports, a serial aerial killer really is poisoning the city's pigeons in flocks.

Bird-lovers are concerned about the tortures of death by pesticide. A spokesman offers an analysis appropriate for Woody Allen's backyard: "This is someone who truly hates pigeons and could be a very disturbed person." And there is sentiment for one of the few species that not only survives but thrives in the street jungles of New York.

For pigeons are the shabby grey unemployables of city life. The gentle and plump birds have an urban strut and bob of the head as characteristic as those of commuters in the rush hour. Their swirling flocks are a tourist attraction from Trafalgar Square to the Piazza San Marco. They have been semi-domesticated by man from temple sacrifices to gifts for lovers and as provisions in pies and dovecots. The athletic among them are the poor man's racehorses and can fly hundreds of miles. And they are not as cheap as all that. In July 1992 a cock pigeon called Invincible Sport was sold for £110,800 to Ms Louella Pigeon World of Leicestershire.

But the street pigeons of New York and London are not such superstars of the breed. The inscription of the verse by Emma Lazarus on the Statue of Liberty could apply to them also: "Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore." They are composed of a bewildering array of cross-breeds of domesticated strains, all of them ultimately descended from the European rock dove. Street pigeons are greedy, dirty and streetwise. They know how to take the Tube or the subway. And when a Londoner started to kidnap the pigeons in Trafalgar Square for sale to restaurants, the public health authorities gave warning that their flesh was so polluted that it was poisonous.

Like Londoners then, many New Yorkers seem happy to see dead pigeons on their streets. There is no danger of an ornithographic catastrophe, however. Like rats, grey squirrels and now Canada geese, street pigeons are as urbanised as New Yorkers or Londoners. They may not look like it. But they have become magnificent engines for street living. Others will flock to fill any gaps made by the pigeon poisoner. The only way to rid the city of street pigeons would be to clear the streets of restaurant garbage, black bags of litter and bread thrown out for them by pigeon-fanciers. And that is not going to happen in cities until street pigeons fly farther than they waddle.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Dilemma of raising party funds without incurring debts

From Mr Gregory Shenkman

Sir, Tony Blair (reports, article and leading article, November 17; letters, November 13, 14, 15, 17) is reacting with the sort of hasty panic which the rest of us may repent at leisure if the Bernie Ecclestone affair results in a decision to provide public funding for political parties. Such a step would be profoundly inappropriate and smack of the nanny state which many of us fear new Labour represents. The same goes for limits on the size of donations.

Political parties and their leaders should ensure that their decisions are not influenced unduly by those from whom the party receives its funding. It would be little short of pathetic for the Prime Minister to ban or restrict funding from private sources on the basis that he cannot exercise proper judgment or control in his own party. The electorate should reject governments it cannot trust. That is democracy.

Individuals and private-sector companies should be permitted to finance political parties as they feel appropriate. To deny this freedom and to replace it with a system of centrally controlled funding and/or size limits would be profoundly illiberal and introduce a sinister element of bureaucratic control which has no place in British politics.

The Government is required to behave in a way which is both ethical and seen to be ethical. It has palpably failed to do so recently — Mr Blair's rather immodest apology notwithstanding. The rest of us should not mistake government dishonesty and/or incompetence for a fundamental flaw in the manner in which political parties are funded. It may not be perfect, but it is better than the alternatives.

Business has tended to support the Tories (although more recently new Labour as well) on the basis that it believes they will be friendly to business interests. In the same way the trade unions have always funded Labour because they expect the Labour Party to support the trade union movement and Labour has never been ashamed of this source of funds. Why should business or private individuals be treated differently?

Yours faithfully,
GREGORY SHENKMAN,
35 Scarsdale Villas, W8.
November 17.

From Mr Peter Chapman

Sir, Can one be forgiven for doubting that altruism underlies financial donations to political parties from business?

Surely the air would be clearer if parties were to be funded from public funds. Arm-twists would be avoided and the different parties could be treated fairly.

I am not sure that the taxpayer would object too strongly if a modest ceiling were imposed on election expenditure. After all, this year's most costly exercise succeeded in boring the electorate rigid and seems to have done little to encourage folk to vote.

State funding should mean that we end up with more of a people's parliament, where policy is formed by conviction tested in debate rather than by the colour of someone's money.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CHAPMAN
(Headmaster,
The Knights Templar School),
Park Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire.
November 14.

From Dr I. Mertling-Blake

Sir, It is obviously painful for those who make hugely generous political donations to have their assurances that they neither seek nor expect commercial favours doubted. Surely unselfish citizenship of such high order deserves better than to be sullied by *unworthy innuendo*?

Why not have these philanthropists contribute to one, audited, political fund, to be divided in direct proportion to the numbers who voted for each political party at the previous election?

Furthermore, annual notification of names and amounts donated would eliminate suspicion of any ulterior personal motives when Birthday and New Year Honours Lists are published.

I remain, yours faithfully,
IAN M. BLAKE,
Blair Cottage,
Aultgrishan,
Melvaig, Gairloch, Wester Ross.
November 14.

Tardy payout hits gun compensation

From Dr David Valentine

Sir, I am more than a little concerned about the progress of the firearms compensation scheme.

I handed in my firearms ten days after the ban came into effect in July. According to the Home Office's explanatory leaflet it would be "several weeks" before they were in a position to acknowledge my claim. I received acknowledgement on November 10.

My numerous inquiries by telephone to the Home Office have revealed that my claim is number ten thousand and something out of seventy or eighty thousand by their estimate, but they are concentrating on A and B claims, ie, for those very limited numbers of items included on their compensation price list. Type C claims, which require a valuation by the claimant and which the majority of serious shooters will have submitted, are to be dealt with only when A and B claims have been settled.

At this rate of progress, as the Home Office has been given no deadline for completing the compensation scheme, it could be some years before all claimants are paid. Also, there is no provision for the payment of interest, thus reducing the value of the claim; a matter which should perhaps concern the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. VALENTINE,
11 Muston Road,
Hunmanby, North Yorkshire.
dvalentine@meditech.compulink.co.uk
November 10.

EMU entry terms

From Sir Malcolm Rifkind, QC

Sir, The Prime Minister, in his Guildhall speech on November 10, said that the Government's decision on joining a single currency would be "judged on a hard-headed assessment of the economic benefits". The Chancellor made a similar remark in his speech to the CBI (letters, November 10 and 15).

No one doubts that the economic arguments will be very important, but the Government will be failing the nation if it does not also encourage a national debate on the constitutional implications.

Creating a single European currency and abolishing, for ever, the pound sterling would be a major step towards a European government. Immediate control over exchange rates and interest rates, and the consequent inevitable trend towards public expenditure and fiscal harmonisation, could not all be dealt with by unelected central bankers, however worthy.

Taxation, public expenditure and the value of the currency go to the heart of democratic accountability in any parliamentary democracy. If they were to be controlled at the European level, a European government and the European Parliament would be the beneficiaries.

If the Prime Minister cannot see that, it is just as well that the Leader of the Opposition does.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM RIFKIND
(Foreign Secretary, 1995-97),
20 Spylaw Street, Edinburgh.
November 11.

From Mr Michael Preston

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky ("Currency hustlers of the CBI", November 11) attributes the failure of over 70 per cent of companies questioned to respond to the CBI survey to only two "reasonable" conclusions: indifference to EMU or a conscious decision to stay on the fence.

There is a third, and more plausible reason: lack of regard for the CBI as an entity worth replying to.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PRESTON,
11 Cross Keys Close, W1.
November 12.

Belief in God without science's help

From Mr Richard Lambert

Sir, Mr Nicholas Beale's suggestion (letter, November 6) that the existence of God could ever be subject to philosophical or scientific demonstration seems to me little short of idolatrous, stemming from an unjustifiable belief in the omnipotence of reason and scientific method. I am afraid that any God established by these methods would turn out, by definition, to be a very human invention.

Christianity, in common with the world's other major religions, speaks of belief in God in dynamic terms — "conversion", "vision", "revelation", "commitment" and "fear" (in the religious sense of awe), not in dry intellectual terms.

I do not want to set faith against reason — mainstream Christianity at least has always seen the two as complementary — and I accept that philosophical and scientific reasoning might occasionally help with clarification at the margins. But belief in God is an attitude of mind and a positioning of oneself towards the world which arises from experience, from confrontation with one's everyday problems, and from deep reflection on the meaning of life.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LAMBERT,
28 The Sheraton,
St Marks Hill, Surbiton, Surrey.
November 7.

From Mr John Sherlock

Sir, Nicholas Beale and Professor Colin Howson (letter, November 10) have each, no doubt, weighed much evidence but have reached different conclusions on the matter of whether or not God exists. Yet surely Professor Howson would agree with Mr Beale that a philosopher (or indeed a scientist) should seek and analyse the evidence in preference to lapsing into irrational superstition?

Scientists, philosophers and ordinary mortals will respect the professor's requirement that a hypothesis should be tested by the most rigorous investigation and analysis. On this basis, the hard evidence supports the hypothesis of a God who cares passionately for human beings and humanity.

Certainly such a conclusion leaves a lot unexplained, but here the Christian has an unfair advantage over the atheist. He finds that his hypothetical God begins to communicate and to reveal answers to the knotty questions. In particular, he discovers why living and dying are so very worthwhile.

Yours faithfully (not sceptically),
JOHN SHERLOCK,
The Cottage, Church Street,
Rudgwick, West Sussex.
john.sherlock@mpct.com
November 10.

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir, The operative phrase of Professor Howson's letter on the likelihood of the existence of God is that he has yet to see an argument to that effect — to his satisfaction. Well, what satisfaction does he think we "believers" enjoy?

Faith, based on revelation, witness and scientific observation of creation, is all there is. A great deal of faith is needed to believe in the god of science — the Big Bang. There is no satisfactory empirical proof of this plausible but, in my view, highly improbable conjecture of creation from nothing, which means that since it cannot be observed or measured it is not scientific and can only be taken on faith — not, however, to everyone's satisfaction.

Having said that, it does remind me strongly of the biblical account of creation — from nothing.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD KAUKAS,
13 Lynwood Road, W5.
November 10.

Wigs and gowns

From Sir Neil Pritchard

Sir, I used to think that wigs for judges should be abolished (letters, November 13). I have changed my mind.

Recently, on my first visit to a court of law, I observed a friend of mine operating as judge. In his wig he looked (and indeed was) appropriately solemn and anonymous. He looked quite different, and I was impressed: I felt that this solemnity and anonymity helped the dispensation of justice.

Barristers are not in the same category. They are advocates. They do not need to seem more intimidatory than they are naturally: they would be quite awe-inspiring enough without their wigs.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL PRITCHARD,
Little Garth, Daglingworth,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

From His Honour Judge Dr Peter Jackson

Sir, As a regular guest speaker at the German Judges Academy, Berlin, I have the opportunity to talk to very many members of the German judiciary, where robes consist of a simple black gown (their hats have now been discarded).

They seem to have one common complaint: that they and the courts do not generally command respect and that discipline in the criminal courtroom in particular is often poor.

One senior judge, having seen our courts, remarked: "If only I had the wig and gown and authority of an English judge, my judicial work would be a lot easier."

Yours etc,
PETER JACKSON,
3 Pump Court, Temple, EC4.
November 14.

Case for carriers

From Mr John Gardner

Sir, Michael Evans, in his report today headed "Saudis and Turks limit Tornado missions", implicitly makes a telling and timely case for the UK to retain carrier-based airpower.

That *HMS Invincible* may be deployed towards the Gulf, to compensate for apparent Saudi and Turkish reluctance to allow RAF aircraft based there to be used for offensive action, is a stark reminder of the complete flexibility of the aircraft carrier operating in international waters against the inflexibility of aircraft tied to someone else's airbase.

In the 1966 Defence Review, this distinction was overlooked as the then Labour Government scrapped the projected new fleet carriers. Fortunately, by way of partial correction in the 1970s, the Sea Harrier was developed for *Invincible* and her sisters, just in time for the Falklands conflict.

With replacements for the carriers now subject to the Strategic Defence Review, the Saudis and Turks have illuminated this debate quite helpfully. I hope this Government takes due note.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GARDNER
(Special adviser at the MoD, 1991-92),
96a Felsham Road, Putney, SW15.
November 14.

Electoral reform

From Mr Richard Burden, MP for Birmingham Northfield (Labour)

Sir, Peter Riddell's article on electoral reform (November 13) was interesting but he is wrong to say that proportional voting would threaten MPs' constituency links. Methods such as the Additional Member System make votes count *and* retain the MP-constituency link.

Labour's manifesto commits us to establish a commission on voting systems to recommend a proportional alternative, to be put before the people in a referendum. That commission will be established soon and will ensure that the people, not politicians, will decide the voting system they wish to see.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD BURDEN
(Chair, Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform),
House of Commons.
November 13.

Sex education

From Dr Margaret White, JP

Sir, The chief executive of the Association for Public Health naively claims (letter, November 15) that the provision in schools of sex education and contraceptives reduces the pregnancy rate of under-age children.

Government figures show that in 1969, before clinics provided contraceptives to schoolchildren, 6.8 per thousand girls under 16 became pregnant. In 1995, millions of pills and condoms later, 102 per thousand attended contraceptive clinics and 8.5 per thousand became pregnant.

There is no such thing as "safe sex", and it is unfair to give young people the idea that if they attend the special clinics and use the proper contraceptives they will not get pregnant or catch a sexually transmitted disease.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET WHITE,
22 Upfield, Croydon, Surrey.
November 15.

Proceed with care

From Mrs Lucy Amos

Sir, Words of wisdom not only accompany flowers and food (letters, November 11 and 13). My new hot-water bottle comes with these instructions:

When filling the bottle do not use boiling water or water from the hot tap as this will cause the bottle to perish.

Yours faithfully,
LUCY AMOS,
132 Bloomfield Road, Bath.
November 13.

From Mr Phil Gulliford

Sir, Instructions for a Fujifilm compact camera:

Do not use this camera when it is emitting smoke or is unusually hot to the touch . . . Use of the camera in any of these conditions may cause a fire . . .

Yours faithfully,
PHIL GULLIFORD,
30 Wintringham Way,
Purley-on-Thames, Berkshire.

From Mr Peter Orr

Sir, My pack of sleeping tablets carries the warning, "May cause drowsiness".

Yours faithfully,
PETER ORR,
17 Berkley Drive,
Guisborough, Cleveland.
November 14.

From Mr Guy Greenhous

Sir, My wife and I recently enjoyed a Californian wine called Frog's Leap. At the very bottom of the label on the back of the bottle was the helpful guidance, "Open Other End".

Yours faithfully,
GUY GREENHOUS,
30 Bovingdon Heights,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.
guy.greenhous@radcliffes.co.uk
November 14.

First cuttings

From Miss Jane Down

Sir, Your report of November 12, "Lawnmower *firm finds American* grass is greener", refers to Ransomes of Ipswich as having manufactured the world's first lawnmower in 1832.

According to my archives, the lawnmower was invented by the Reverend Edwin Budding and patented by J. Ferrabee of the Phoenix Foundry near Stroud in Gloucestershire in about 1828. Known as Budding's machine, it was "a new adaption of one of the most efficient mechanical contrivances employed for shearing cloth" and was marketed under Budding's maxim that "Country Gentlemen may find in using my machine themselves, an amusing, useful, and healthy exercise".

Its first commercial outing was during the summer of 1831, when Mr Curtis, foreman of the Zoological Society's gardens in Regent's Park, found it to be entirely satisfactory, doing as much work as six men with scythes and brooms. There were two models available, ranging in price from seven to ten guineas. The wooden box on the front to collect the clippings was, of course, an optional extra.

Yours faithfully,
JANE DOWN,
Marshwood House, Whitegate,
Forton, Chard, Somerset.
November 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 17: The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of Council, this morning attended a Meeting and Luncheon at St George's House, Windsor Castle.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Royal Air Force Museum, this evening attended a Twenty Fifth Anniversary Dinner in the Museum, Hendon, London NW9.

The Queen was represented by Sir Timothy Colman KG at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mr David Keith which was held in St Mary's Church, Little Walsingham, Norfolk, this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by the Lord Buxton of Alsa.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Anthony Duckworth-Chad.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was represented by the Lady Glenconner.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Mr Bryan Basset.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 17: The Duke of York, Honorary Air Commodore, Royal Air Force Lossiemouth, this afternoon received Group Graham Miller upon relinquishing his appointment as Station Commander and Group Captain Alan Hudson upon assuming the appointment.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

November 17: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, this morning presided at a Council Meeting.

His Royal Highness, President, Royal Shakespeare Company, this afternoon chaired the Annual Governors' Meeting at the Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 17: The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Order of St John, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, this evening attended a Dinner on board *HMY Britannia*, Pool of London.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

November 17: The Duke of Kent this morning opened the Integrated Care Centre, Victoria Infirmary, Northwich, and was received by the Viscount Ashbrook (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire).

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Peter Doughty Building Teaching and Sixth Form Centre, Sandbach School, Sandbach, and, as Patron, the British Menswear Guild, visited Chester Barrie Austin Reed International, Weston Road, Crewe, Cheshire.

The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Anglo Jordanian Society, this evening attended the Biennial Dinner at the Roof Gardens, Kensington High Street, London W8.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK

November 17: Princess Alexandra was represented by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mr David Keith which was held in St Mary's Church, Little Walsingham, Norfolk, this morning.

Memorial service

Captain David Keith

The Queen was represented by Sir Timothy Colman, KG, Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, and The Duke of Edinburgh by Lord Buxton of Alsa, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Captain David Keith, landowner and farmer, held yesterday at St Mary's, Little Walsingham, Norfolk.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Anthony Duckworth-Chad, Princess Margaret by Lady Glenconner, the Duke of Kent by Mr Bryan Basset, and Princess Alexandra by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy.

The Rev Keith Haydon, Vicar of Walsingham, officiated, assisted by the Bishop of Lynn, Canon Bryan Parry, the Rev John Miller and the Rev Mark Wells.

The Hon Jeremy Soames and Mr James Prideaux, sons-in-law, read the lessons. Miss Gemma Soames, granddaughter, and Alexander Prideaux, grandson, gave readings. The Hon Nicholas Soames, MP, gave an address. Among others present were:

Mrs Keith (widow), the Hon Mrs Jeremy Soames and Mrs James Prideaux (daughters), Flora Soames, Archie Soames, Catherine Prideaux, Emma Prideaux and George Prideaux (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Denis Cox, Lord and Lady Keith of Castleacre, Mrs Michael Keith, Mrs John Benson, Mrs John Jolcey, Mrs Michael Fetherstone-Dilke, Mr and Mrs James Keith, Mrs Fergus Laing, the Hon Lady Mackeson, Mrs Hugh Henderson, the O'Grady and Madame O'Grady, Mrs Peter Player, Miss Alice Player.

The Marchioness of Cholmondeley, Marquess Townshend, Earl and Countess De La Warr, the Earl and Countess of Leicester, Earl and Countess Peel, the Earl of Romney, Lord Edward Fitzroy, Lord Patrick Beresford (Household Cavalry), Lady Buxton of Alsa, Lord Hambro, Lord and Lady Kimball, Lord and Lady Manton, Lady Mott-Radclyffe, Lady Soames, Lord Somerleyton, Lady Zuckerman, Lady Silvia Combe, Lady Carey Basset, Lady Jane Fellowes, Lady Margaret Fortescue, Lady Caroline Ogilvy, the Hon Mrs Julian Berry, the Hon Charles and Mrs Cecil, the Hon Peregrine and Mrs Fairfax, the Hon Kim and Mrs Fraser, the Hon Mrs Greenall, the Hon Mrs William Rollo, the Hon Emma Soames, the Hon Mrs Nicholas Soames.

Sir Michael and Lady Farquhar, Sir Rupert and Lady Mann, Lady Dugdale, Sir Julian Loyd, Sir Thomas and Lady Pilkington, General Sir Harry and Lady Tuzo, Mr Michael and Lady Angela Oswald, Mr and the Hon Mrs Richard Palmer, Mr and the Hon Mrs Tim Sergison Brooke, Princess Nicholas von Preussen.

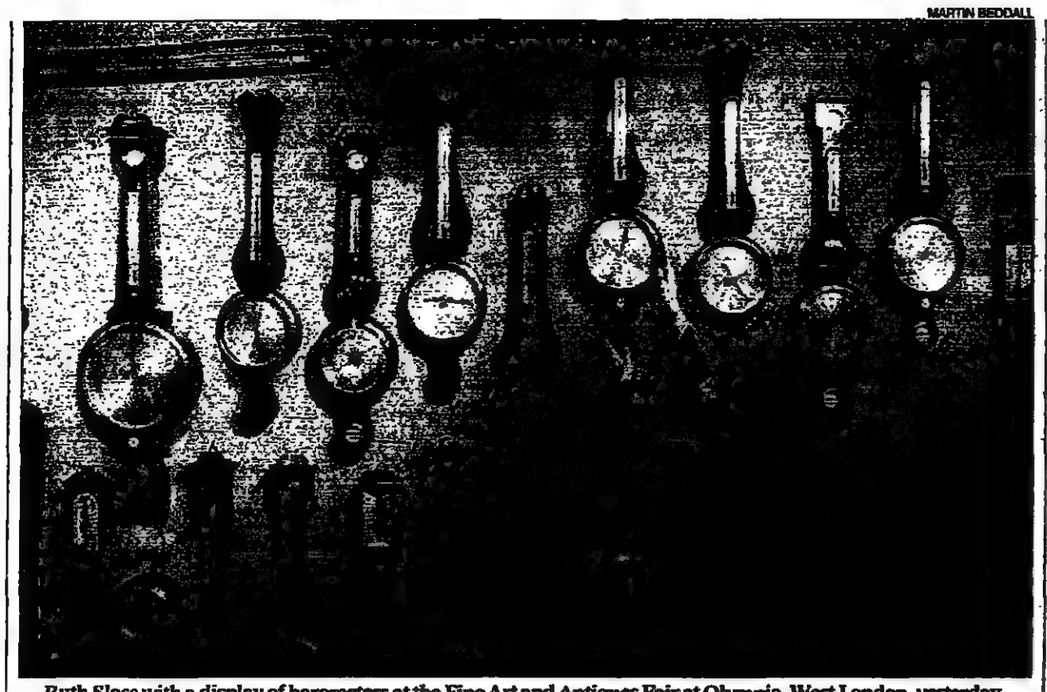
Mrs Anthony Duckworth-Chad, Mr and Mrs Tim Barclay, Mrs Guy Moreton, Mr and Mrs John Beckwith-Smith, Captain and Mrs Harry Birkbeck, Mr and Mrs Christopher Boone, Mrs Gerry Bullard, Mr and Mrs Ian Cameron, Mr and Mrs Victor Cazalet, Mr Nicholas Cobbold, Mr and Mrs Thomas Cook, Mr and Mrs Tom Davies, Mr and Mrs Joe Floyd, Mr and Mrs William Fox, Mrs Rex Fripp, Mr and Mrs Richard Gaskell.

Mr and Mrs James Hambro, Mrs Jocelyn Hambro, Major Tom Harvey, Mr and Mrs John Henderson, Mrs Ian Henderson, Mrs Robert Hoare, Mr and Mrs Greville Howard, Mr and Mrs Simon Keswick, Mr and Mrs Robin Leslie, Captain and Mrs John Macdonald-Buchanan, Mr Desmond McKinnes Skinner, Mr and Mrs Alastair McCorquodale, Major and Mrs John Mills, Mr and Mrs John Parry, Mr and Mrs Nigel Pease, Mr and Mrs Ronnie Pilkington, Mrs Roddy Rail.

Dr and Mrs Piers Reinhold, Major and Mrs William Riley, Mr and Mrs John Rippingall, Mr Charles Smith Bingham, Major and Mrs David Stobart, Mrs Henry Strutt, Mrs James Teacher, Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Van Cutsem, Mr and Mrs David Wales, Mr and Mrs Alastair Wallace, Captain Anthony Weatherall, Mr and Mrs Christopher Weatherby, Mr John Weller-Poley, Mr David Wigan, Mr Michael Wigan, the Chief Constable of Norfolk.

Mr Roger Lyles (Fakenham Racecourse) and Mrs Lyles, Mr Charles Geary (Quorn Hunt), Mr David Ward (White's), Mr Paul Raywood (North Norfolk Conservative Association and the Walsingham branch), Major William Riley (Royal West Norfolk Golf Club), Mrs William Bennion (Young Parkinson Disease Society), Mr R Pickering (Mid Norfolk Farmers), Mrs Pat Taylor (Fakenham Flower Club) and many other friends and employees.

MARTIN BEDDALL



Ruth Sloss with a display of barometers at the Fine Art and Antiques Fair at Olympia, West London, yesterday. The fair, which runs until Sunday, features an exhibition of Scottish artefacts including Jacobite memorabilia

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron, will receive a cheque on behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Group from employees of Tesco at Buckingham Palace at 10.00; and, as Senior Fellow, will present the Royal Academy of Engineering MacRobert award at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Prince of Wales will attend the Royal Film Performance of *Titanic* in aid of the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund, at the Empire, Leicester Square, at 7.45.

The Princess Royal, as president, Save the Children Fund, will visit a shop at 55 London Road, Stockton Heath, Cheshire, at 11.25; as president of patrons, Crime Concern, will attend a training morning, National Tenants Resource Centre, Trafford Hall, Ince Lane, Wimbolds Trafford, near Chester, at 12.20; and, as president, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will visit Vale Royal Carers Centre, Unit 8, Lower Ground Floor, Handy Jack DIY Superstore, Leicester Street, Northwich, at 2.30. Later, as Royal Master of the Bench, Inner Temple, will attend a mixed dining night at the Inner Temple Hall at 6.40.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend the celebrations to mark the completion of Christ Church School's development plan at the school, Warnham Road, Finchley, London, N12, at 2.15.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, United Kingdom Committee for United Nations International Children's Fund, will present the "Champion Children" awards, Marriott London Hotel, Grosvenor Square, at 7.30.

Princess Alexandra, as patron, will open the new library building of the Central School of Speech and Drama, Eton Avenue, NW3, at 3.00.

Dinners

Order of St John

The King and Queen of Jordan were the principal guests at a dinner of the Order of St John, held last night on board *HMY Britannia* in the Pool of London. The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of the Order of St John, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, presided. Lord Vestey, Lord Prior, and Lady Vesty and Captain Christopher Fagan and Mrs Mary Fagan, Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, were the hosts.

RAF Museum, Hendon

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Royal Air Force Museum, was the principal guest at a dinner held last night at the Museum to mark the 25th Anniversary of its opening by The Queen. Dr Michael A. Fopp, Director, presided and Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Michael Beetham, Chairman of Trustees, also spoke.

Anglo-Jordanian Society

Princess Sarvath of Jordan and the Duke of Kent, Patrons of the Anglo-Jordanian Society, attended the bi-annual dinner held last night at the Garden Restaurant, South Kensington. Sir Marrack Goulding, Under Secretary-General, Political Affairs, United Nations, and Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford, was the principal speaker. The Ambassador of Jordan and Mrs Ayoub were among those present.

Lord Sudeley

Lord Sudeley, a member of the governing council of the Manorial Society of Great Britain, gave a reception last night at the House of Lords for members of the society and their guests. Mr Robert Smith, chairman, presided.

Wolfe Society

Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Wolfe Society held last night in Westerham, Kent, to mark the 270th anniversary of the birth of Major-General James Wolfe. Mr J. St A. Warde, president, was in the chair.

Cardiff Business Club

The President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Idwal Pugh, the Lord-Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Captain N. Lloyd Edwards, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Mrs Gill Bird, and the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr J.W. Phillips, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, last night. The guest speaker was Mr Colin Sharman, Chairman, Worldwide, KPMG. Mr Alun Bowen, Senior Partner, KPMG, Wales, presided.

Furniture Makers' Company

Mr Edward Brett, Master, presided at the Furniture Makers' Company's annual ladies' dinner held last night at Drapers' Hall. Mr Peter Jarrold and Liveryman Mr William Tillman also spoke. The Masters of the Turners', Paviors' and Glass Sellers' Companies and their ladies were among those present.

Latest wills

Nicholas Damant Shipp, of Weybridge, Surrey, left estate valued at £25,916,523 net.

Valmai Mair Williams, of London W8, left estate valued at £2,771,965 net.

She left £1,000 each to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, St Philip's Church, Earls Court Road, London, the National Arts Collectors' Fund; £100 to Borneo Mission in association with the USPG.

Nancy Mary Staveley, of Sedbergh, Cumbria, left estate valued at £571,139 net.

She left £2,000 to St Andrew's church, Dent, and shares in the remainder of her estate to trustees of the Sight Saver Appeal, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, League of Friends of Westmorland County Hospital, National Children's Home, British Diabetic Association and Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for research.

Arthur Horace Smith, of Bransgore, Dorset, left estate valued at £531,316 net.

He left £2,200 to Bransgore Medical Centre and shares in his residuary estate to the British Heart Foundation, RNLI, New Bournemouth Hospital Appeal and the Cancer Research Campaign.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Pierre Bayle, philosopher, Carlat, France, 1647; Sir David Wilkie, painter, Cults, Fife, 1785; Sir Henry Bishop, composer, London, 1786; Carl Maria von Weber, composer, Eutin, Germany, 1786; Louis Jacques Daguerre, painter and pioneer of photography, Cormeilles, France, 1789; Adolf Erik Nordenskjöld, Arctic explorer, Helsinki, 1832; Sir William Gilbert, collaborator with Sir Arthur Sullivan in the Savoy operas, London, 1836; Percy Wyndham Lewis, artist and writer, at sea, off Amherst, Nova Scotia, 1882; George Gallup, pioneer of public opinion polls, Jefferson, Iowa, 1901; Sir Alec Issigonis, designer of the Mini car, Smyrna, Turkey, 1906.

DEATHS: Reginald Pole, Archbishop of Canterbury 1556-58, London, 1558; Charles Heath, engraver, London, 1848; Captain George Manby, inventor of life-saving apparatus, died at sea, Yarmouth, 1854; Edward Forbes, naturalist, Wardie, near Edinburgh, 1854; Chester Arthur, 21st American President 1881-85, New York, 1886; Marcel Proust, novelist, Paris, 1922; Thomas Power O'Connor, journalist and politician, London, 1929; Walter Hermann Nernst, physicist, Nobel laureate 1920, Muskau, Germany, 1941; John Watson, Australia's 1st Labour Prime Minister 1904, Sydney, 1941; Paul Eluard, poet, Charenton-le-Pont, 1952; Niels Bohr, physicist, Nobel laureate 1922, Copenhagen, 1962; Man Ray, photographer, painter and film-maker, 1976.

William Caxton issued his first dated, printed book, 1477.

St Peter's Church in Rome was consecrated, 1626.

A fire at King's Cross station, the worst in the history of the London Underground, killed 31 people, 1987.

Terry Waite was released by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine after almost five years in captivity, 1991.

Birthdays today

The Right Rev Dewi Bridges, Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, 64; Sir Kenneth Clucas, former civil servant, 76; Professor C.D. Cowan, former Director, School of Oriental and African Studies, 74; Lord Cullen, 62; the Rev V.H.H. Green, former Rector, Lincoln College, Oxford, 82; Mr David Hemmings, actor, director and producer, 56; Mr John Hosier, former Principal, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, 69; Sir Gordon Jewkes, diplomat, 66; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, 74; Lord Mackenzie-Stuart, 73; the Earl of Malmesbury, 90; Mr Michael Pascoe, Governor, Winchester prison, 50; Mr Alan Fryce-Jones, book critic, 89; Professor J.R. Quayle, FRS, former Vice-Chancellor, Bath University, 71; Mr Brian Quinn, former executive director, financial stability, Bank of England, 61; the Duke of Roxburghe, 43; Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, 70; Sir Tasker Watkins, VC, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 79.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League

Dr Julian Filbrook was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

Luncheon

Maldivian Government

The Ministry of Tourism of the Maldivian Government were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at the Earls Court Exhibition Centre. Mr Ivan Corea, presided. Among those present were:

Mr Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, Mr Mohamed Saeed, Princess Helena Moutafian, the Deputy High Commissioner for the Maldives, Mr George Galloway, MP, Mr Tom Cox, MP, Mr Nigel Evans, MP, and Mr Nirj Deva.

Reception

UK — Sri Lanka Business Council

Mr Alan Bartlett, Chairman of the UK — Sri Lanka Business Council, was the host at a reception held last night at the London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, to welcome Mr Thilan Wijesinghe, Chairman of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, and a visiting trade mission from the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and also to mark Sri Lanka Week. The High Commissioner for Sri Lanka attended.

Service dinner

HMS Victory

Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, was the host at a dinner held last night in HMS Victory in honour of the Chiefs of Navies of the Channel Committee. Among those present were:

Admiral Sir Jock Slater (First Sea Lord), Admiral J-C Lefebvre (CNS France), Vice-Admiral H R Boehmer (CNS Germany), Vice-Admiral L Kroon (CNS Netherlands), Rear-Admiral M Verhulst (CNS Belgium), Admiral Sir Michael Boyce (COMNAVNORTHWEST) and Vice-Admiral M P Gretton (SACLANT's representative in Europe).

Legal appointment

Mr Peter Heaton Latham has been appointed a Circuit Judge. He will be assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr P.J. Cluley
and Miss K.S. Bates**

The engagement is announced between Paul, youngest son of Dr and Mrs A. Paul Cluley, of Camberley, Surrey, and Kay, daughter of Mr and Mrs William J.G. Bates, of Stone, Staffordshire.

**Mr B.J. Hood
and Miss S.L. Martin**

The engagement is announced between Benjamin, younger son of the late Mr Derek Hood and of Mrs Michael Dando, and stepson of Mr Michael Dando, of Sutton Coldfield, and Stephanie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Barrie Martin, of Otford, Kent.

**Mr J.C. Munn
and Miss N. Troubridge**

The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr J.H. Munn, of Hornchurch, and Mrs I.M. Farthing, of Hullbridge, Essex, and Nicola, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Troubridge, of Stanford le Hope, Essex.

**Mr J.A. Nathan
and Miss G.L. Grice**

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Nathan, of Tarrant Hinton, Dorset, and Guinevere, daughter of Professor and Mrs Roger Grice, of Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire.

**Mr M.D.N. Oliver
and Miss N. Bromage**

The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Professor Michael Oliver, of Keepier Wharf, London, and Dr Margaret Oliver, of East Morningside House, Edinburgh, and Nichola, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Nigel Bromage, of Barland House, Presteigne, Powys.

**Mr J.A. Sims
and Miss K.B. Kleindienst**

The engagement is announced between John, son of Professor and Mrs Andrew Sims, of Leeds, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kendall Kleindienst, of Moorestown, New Jersey.

**Mr B. Soma
and Miss E.C. Walters**

The engagement is announced between Boris, son of Mrs Rimma Soma, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Denys Walters.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Martyn Dunning, Vicar, Brandesburton and Leven w Catwick (York): to be Rural Dean of North Holderness (same diocese).

The Rev Ian Ellery, Team Rector, Howden (York): to be Rural Dean of Howden (same diocese).

The Rev Bob Fitzharris, Vicar, Bentley St Peter (Sheffield): to be also European Link Officer for the diocese.

The Rev Lucille Gale, Assistant Curate, Welling St Mary (Southwark): to be Chaplain, Greenwich University (same diocese).

The Rev Mary Gaskell, formerly Assistant Trust Chaplain, St James' Hospital, Leeds (Ripon): to be part-time Chaplain, Rishworth School, Halifax (Wakefield).

The Rev John Hawley, Team Rector, Dewsbury (Wakefield): to be Honorary Canon of Wakefield Cathedral.

The Rev David Hoskin, Vicar, Beverley St Mary (York): to be Rural Dean of Beverley (same diocese).

The Rev Ian Rumsey, Team Vicar, Cockermouth w Embleton and Wythop (Carlisle): to be also part-time Adviser for Post-Ordination Training (same diocese).

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
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FAX: 0171 481 9313

If your enemy is hungry, give him food; if he is thirsty, give him a drink of water; for so you will heap live coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you. Proverbs 25 : 21,22

BIRTHS

ALMEIDA - On November 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Jeanne and Daniel, a daughter, Alexandra, a sister for Dana Alyssa and Victoria.

BARKSHIRE - On November 13th, to Katharine (née English) and William, a son, Edward Robert St John, a brother for Alexandra.

BENZIKIE - On November 8th, to Mary (née Mannel) and Stephen, a daughter, Isobel Flora Mannel.

BROYD - On Monday 10th November 1997, to Paola (née Bergamaschi) and Richard, a treasured son, Christopher.

CALVERT - On November 16th, at home, to Pauline (née Murphy) and Andrew, a daughter, Daisy Melissa, a sister for Lucinda, Sophie, Charles, Polly and Justin.

CHAPMAN - On 24th October 1997 at St Thomas' Hospital, to Karina (née Hatchard) and Nicholas, a beautiful daughter, Natacha Johanna Lily, a sister for Georgina and Anna.

GODFREY-FAUSSETT - On November 10th at Kings College Hospital, London, to Samantha (née du Cane Wilkinson) and Matthew, a daughter, Iona Elizabeth.

GOODE - On November 15th, to Tracy (née Holland) and James, a son, Alexander James.

HARNBY - On 11th November, to Charlotte and Guy, a daughter, Poppy Amelia, a sister for Rosie, Francesca and Robbie.

HATCHARD - See Chapman.

JOHNSON - On November 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Frances (née Metlak) and Richard, a son, Joshua, a brother for Emmanuel.

JOSEPH - On November 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Charlotte (née Heller) and Theo, a son, Oliver Nicholas, a brother for Alexander.

LECHAPLAIN - On November 13th 1997 in Paris to Joanna (King) and Denis, a daughter, Alicia Rosemary Gisele.

MARSDEN-SMEDLEY - On November 15th, to Alex (née Kirkland) and William, a son, Alfred (Alfie), a brother for Rosie.

MEATH - On November 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Laurel and Brian, a son, Logan Tudor, a brother for Caleb Burdock.

NEW - On November 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Christina Ruiz and Albert New, a son, Patrick, a brother for Phillip.

WATSON - On November 14th, to Helen (née Castle) and Craig, a daughter, Rosa Christine Ellis.

DEATHS

BADGER - Stephen Tarrant suddenly at home in Dulwich on Friday 14th November aged 57. Husband of Katharine, father of Penelope and Benedict, son of Alison, brother of Judith. Family cremation in Dorset, Thanksgiving Service in Dulwich to follow - details will be circulated.

BATCHELOR - Wilma, MBE, died on Sunday 16th November 1997 aged 79. Wife of Professor George Batchelor, mother of Adrienne, Clare and Bryony, loving grandmother of Paul and Jessica. Private family cremation. Donations in memory of Wilma's work for mental health may be made to MIND, 15-19 Broadway, London E15 4BQ.

CALDIN - On 15th November 1997, peacefully, Mary, wife of Edward, mother of Hugh [illegible] of Thomas, Kate, Lucy, Clare, Harriet and Alexander. Funeral at noon on Tuesday, 25th November at St Thomas' Church, Burgate, Canterbury. Donations, if wished, to Shelter, c/o C.W. Lyons & Son Ltd., 70 Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1ND; tel: 01227-463508.

CARR - Diana Juliette, died peacefully on Friday 14th November 1997 in the loving care of The Grange Nursing Home, Sherborne St John. Beloved wife of the late Arthur, very dearly loved mother of Mary, John and Christina, dear Granny/Daz of her eight grandchildren and good friend to so many. Thanksgiving service for her courageous life to be held at St Paul's, Ashford Hill on Wednesday 26th November at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Council of Music in Hospitals, c/o Howe & Son Funeral Directors, Bear Hill, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berkshire RG15 8QA (Tel: 01635 298303).

CARTER - Nichola Jane Eleanora Minervina, precious and loving daughter of Dorothea and adored mother of Matthew and Ella, died 15th November 1997. Funeral private.

COLLAR - In Malta, Commander Michael Harvey Collar RN (Retd) on November 10th. Beloved husband of Dee (née Doris Scicluna) and loving brother of Brenda. Remembered by his family and friends. The Funeral took place on November 12th at the Anglican Church, Sliema.

CONSTANT - Richard Lionel on November 14th, beloved husband of Lis, stepfather of Chris and Mike, brother of Sue and Brian and a much loved uncle. Funeral service at The School Chapel, Caldicott, Farnham Royal, Bucks, on Tuesday 25th November at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations to Macmillan Trust c/o H.C Grimstead Ltd., Churchfield Lodge, Churchfield Road, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9EW.

COULSON - On Saturday November 15th very peacefully John Elkingham, much loved husband of Mavis and dear father of Nevil and David. Funeral at St Mary's, Selborne on Tuesday November 25th at 2.15 pm, with Memorial Service at later date. Flowers or donations to the Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o Kemp & Stevens, 93 High Street, Alton, Hants. GU34 1LG.

FAWCETT - James William MD, FRCP, died peacefully at home on 14th November 1997. Much loved husband of Josephine, father of Desmond, William and Catherine and brother of Fil. Enquiries to F.E. Farrer, 33 High Street, Billericay, Essex, (01277) 622944.

FENN - Jonathan Edward aged 43 on 15th November after a courageous battle with cancer. Much loved husband of Charlotte and father of Richard and Edward. Funeral Service at Guildford Crematorium on Friday 21st November at 1.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations to MacMillan Nurses and enquiries to Robert Ayling Funeral Services, 25 South Road, Guildford GU2 6NY. Tel: 01483 567333.

GLADSTONE - Alison Frances (Sally) on November 14th, aged 87, peacefully at Royal Shropshire Nuffield Hospital. Beloved sister, aunt and great-aunt. Funeral private Shrewsbury November 21st.

[illegible] - Peter Dary, on 16th November, aged 77 in a nursing home after a long illness bravely borne; beloved husband of Margaret, father of Martin and Richard, grandfather of Katie and Andrew. Family flowers only; any donations to the [illegible] Fund. Funeral at Castle Cary Methodist Church on Friday 21st November at 1.45 pm to be followed by cremation (family only).

HAMM - On 12th November 1997, Judy, mother of Verity Corfield and Jeremy. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at 2.30 pm on Monday 24th November at All Saints Church, Woodford Green. All enquiries to W. English & Son, 24 Electric Parade, George Lane, London E18 1AY, tel: (0181) 989-9422.

[illegible] - Colonel John David suddenly but peacefully on holiday in Mombasa, Kenya on 11th November 1997. Much beloved husband of Joan and father of Edward and Jane and grandfather of Ben and Lucy. Funeral at St Nicholas' Church, Pyrford, Woking on Friday 21st November at 2.30 pm. A private cremation will follow. Flowers to T.H. Sanders & Sons, Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey.

HIGHAM - Jennifer St. Clair on 15th November 1997, much loved sister, aunt, God parent, friend and member of the congregation of St Columba's by the Castle, with great faith after a rapid illness. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, at 11 am on Saturday 22nd November. Family flowers only, donations may be sent to Provincial Overseas Mission, c/o General Synod Office, Scottish Episcopal Church, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EE.

HILL - Harold Vincent, formerly from Bristol, peacefully on Saturday November 15th 1997 at Caterham Dene Hospital, aged 86 years. Sadly missed by his wife Sylvia, family and friends. Funeral Service at St John's Church, Caterham Valley on Friday November 21st at 1.30 pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers, donations to League of Friends Caterham Dene c/o B.C. Baker & Son, 15-17 High Street, Caterham, CR3 5UE.

HOHENLOHE-LANGENBURG - H.S.H. Princess Beatrice. On 15th November in hospital. Service of Thanksgiving for her life at Langenburg Church on Monday 24th November at noon.

LESLIE - At home on 13th November 1997 Hazel Jean Elizabeth (née Colville), beloved wife of the late Alexander Leslie, devoted mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at St Michael's Church, Elie on Friday 21st November at 11.30 am, followed by interment at Largo Cemetery at 1 pm. Family flowers only please but donations to Macmillan Cancer Relief (Fife) would be much appreciated. Enquiries to G. Dunsire, Colinsburgh, (01333) 340666.

JOULE - Elizabeth (Betty/Bett) of New Barnet, suddenly on November 13th. Beloved wife of Philip and widow of Ronald North of Derby. Dearly loved mother of Stephen, Linda, Mary and Jane, grandmother and great-grandmother. Daughter of William and Constance (Connie) Annie Sinclair of Derby. Bett was born at Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent on 20th February 1920. Funeral to be held at 3 pm on 24th November at New Southgate Crematorium. No flowers, by request, but donations, if desired, to Friends of Barnet Hospitals. Donations and enquiries to J. Blackwell & Son, 20 High Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 5SU.

LESLIE - Prof. Ian Wallace, FRCVS died suddenly at home on 13th November aged 76. Worked for many years at The Ministry of Agriculture Fish and Food, and abroad. He struggled for many years with the difficulties of his chronic illness. He will be lovingly remembered and missed by all his family here and in Australia. Service at Woking Crematorium on Friday 21st November at 11 am. Family flowers only.

MARSHALL-ENGLISH - Sophie Carey died suddenly and peacefully on November 10th, at home; and will be remembered with love by her son, Desmond, and by all her family and friends. Funeral Service at Deddington Parish Church, on Tuesday, November 25th at 11.30 am. Enquiries to J&M Humphris, Banbury (01295) 268424.

McBRIDE - Alan G. McBride OBE, late of Dreadnought, Seamans Hospital and the Seamans Hospital Society, on November 15th 1997 peacefully in hospital aged 77 years. Dearly loved husband of Betty, beloved father of Hilary, adored and respected grandfather of Jeffrey and Jacqueline-Anne and proud great-grandfather. At rest. Service and cremation at Landican Centre Chapel on Thursday November 20th at 1.30 pm. Flowers or donations if desired for the Seamans Society may be sent c/o Co-operative Funeral Service, 56 Liscard Road, Wallasey, tel: (0151) 638-6665.

[illegible] - Ronald Wroughton on November 16th peacefully in Falmouth. Dearly loved husband of Doree, loving father of Angela, Gavin and Margaret and dear grandfather of [illegible]. Private cremation. No flowers please.

MEAD - Michael Kenneth aged 69. Suddenly on November 16th, much loved husband of Nancy, father and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Anne Church, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth on Monday 24th November 1997 at 11.30 am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired for R.N.L.I. or The Rowans Hospice c/o Barrells Funeral Directors, 245 Fratton Road, Portsmouth, PO1 5PA.

MERRIMAN - Nancy Elizabeth Merriman, F.M.N. aged 71, on 13th November 1997. Peacefully at the Lister Hospital after a long illness. Eldest daughter of the late Canon E.S. Merriman. Much loved sister of Pat and Anne, and a dearly loved aunt. Funeral Service at Harwood Park Crematorium, Stevenage, on Friday 21st November at 2.45 pm. Family flowers only by request, donations if desired for 78 Amenity Fund, (Lister Hospital), may be sent c/o Austins of Stevenage, 9-11 Letchmore Road, Stevenage. Tel: 01438-316623.

MIERS - Jean on 16th November, the greatest great-grandmother, grandmother and mother. Thanksgiving Service at Bledington Church, Gloucestershire, 12 noon Saturday 22nd November and afterwards at Northfield Farm, Evenlode.

MILNE HOME - Evelyn Elizabeth (Betty) (née Dudley) on November 15th 1997, aged 86, peacefully at Sutton Manor Nursing Home. Beloved wife of the late Archie and much loved mother of Michael, John, Patrick and Isabel, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St Catherine's Church, Wolverton, Hampshire, on Tuesday November 25th, at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to King George V Fund for Sailors or Save the Children Fund c/o Howe & Son, Bear Hill, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks. RG20 5QA. Tel: (01635) 298303.

NORTH - See Joule Elizabeth.

OVERALL - Prucilla (Prue). Dear wife and friend of Tony for over 50 years, loving mother to Nicholas and Richard, granny Prue to Charlotte, Sarah, Richard (Manny) and Lottie, died suddenly in the Lister Hospital, Chelsea after a brave fight on Wednesday 12th November 1997. Funeral at St Joseph's RC Church, Roehampton, SW15 on Tuesday 25th November at 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Muscular Dystrophy Group. All enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, Kensington W8. Tel: (0171) 937-0757.

POLTOCK - Dorothy Margaret M.B.E. peacefully in hospital on 13th November 1997 aged 77 years. Beloved wife of the late Flight Lieutenant Trevor Victor Poltock, formerly of Liverpool and Abbeystead and late of Chester. Funeral Service at Blacon Crematorium, Chester, on Friday 21st November 1997 at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations for the League of Welldoers would be appreciated and may be sent c/o (Terence Bacon Funeral Director), Chester and District Funeral Services, 98 Boughton, Chester, CH3 5AQ, tel: (01244) 315012.

PORTER - Eileen - Much loved mother of Tony and Jill and grandmother of Cushnaghan, Carey and Dermot, passed peacefully away at Chesham, Bucks on Friday November 14th. A service will take place at The Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, at 2 pm on Tuesday November 25th. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to National Canine Defence League. All enquiries to Cooks Funeral Services, 72 Broad Street, Chesham, Bucks (01494 791369).

POTTER - Jeremy Potter, author and publisher, died on November 15th at the age of 75; the beloved and loving husband of Margaret, father of Jocelyn and Jonathan and grandfather of Katy. Cremation at Oxford Crematorium, Bayswater Road at 4 pm on Friday 21st November, followed by tea at Old Headington Parish Hall. No flowers by request.

PURBECK - Lucy died on 16th November 1997 after a long illness. A funeral service will be held at Golders Green Crematorium at 11.30 am on Monday 24th November. Flowers to Leverton & Sons, 212 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BD.

READ - Margaret Turner, Teacher and Artist, died at home in Waldron, E. Sussex on 14th November 1997, aged 84. Funeral Service at Waldron Parish Church on Friday 21st November, 10.30am followed by private burial at Keymer. Family flowers, donations if wished to Local District Nurses Funds c/o R. Jarvis Funeral Directors, Cross-in-Hand, Heathfield, Sussex TN21 0SR. Tel: 01435 862838.

ROBERTSON - On November 17th 1997 peacefully at Ascot, Colonel Alexander Ross Robertson MBE, TD, "Robbie" aged 84. Much loved husband of Jeanette, dear father of Lindsay, Graham, Hugh, Dominic and Carziona (Prilly) and adored grandfather of eight. Flowers and enquiries to Lines Bannister Funeral Directors, 49 High Street, Ascot, Berks. Tel: 01344 20266.

RYAN - Jan aged 52, died peacefully within sight of the ocean and mountains of Kauai - the Pacific Island she loved so much. Her courageous battle with cancer ended on 14th November. Loved and sadly missed by Sue, Mike, Clare, Claire, Annie, Tessa and Freddie.

SKETCHLEY - John died peacefully at home on 17th November 1997 aged 91, much loved husband of Kitty and father of Guy and William. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Walton-on-the-Hill at 2.30 pm on Friday 21st November. Family flowers only please to Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill, RH1 6AZ. Tel: (01737) 763486.

SMITH - Suddenly at home on 13th November, aged 81, Alan Bailey Smith, beloved husband of Elizabeth, father of Roland, Oliver and Charles, and grandfather of seven grandchildren. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St James's Church, Norton, Sheffield, at 2 pm on Monday 24th November. No flowers please, but donations if wished may be sent to the Rector, St James's Church, Norton Rectory, Norton Church Road, Sheffield S8 8JQ.

THOMAS - Jenny died 15th November 1997 aged 71. Much loved. Funeral 1 pm Friday 21st November Putney Vale Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations to Artists' General Benevolent Institution, Royal Academy, Burlington House, W1.

THOMPSON - Josephine of Cockburnspath, Berwickshire, peacefully on 14th November 1997, aged 84. Wife of the late Howard Thompson and dearly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Cockburnspath Parish Church on Friday 21st November at 3 pm. Family flowers only.

TOGURI - David Mogumi - London based choreographer, died peacefully at his Toronto home Saturday November 15th, 1997 after a courageous battle with cancer. Beloved brother of Samuel, Suzuko, Makiko and husband Roy, James and wife Elsie, Grace and husband Edward, Allan and wife Emilie and Miki. David was much loved by his 16 nephews and nieces. Many thanks to his friends and colleagues for their love and support. If desired, a memorial donation can be sent to the National Youth Theatre, 443-445 Holloway Road, London, N7 6LW to create a choreography bursary in David's name.

[illegible] - Dr Charles Dudley Mangon [illegible], peacefully at home on November 15th 1997 aged 87 years, [illegible] adored husband of Sarah and "bestest" darling daddy to Kate, James and Alastair. Private cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at St John's Church, [illegible] on Friday November 21st at 2 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to The Sail Training Association, Portsmouth, c/o [illegible] Funeral Service, [illegible] Road, [illegible], SW18 [illegible].

[illegible] - Dale Elizabeth. On Saturday 15th November at the London Clinic after a long illness. Loving mother of Zöe, Charles, Victoria and Edward and loved daughter of Joan and Barry Hanger and sister of Sharon and Derek. Funeral private. A memorial service will be held later in London.

[illegible] - On November [illegible] at St John's Hospice, London, Susan (née Quartley), peacefully after her courageous and inspiring battle with cancer. Dear to Christine, Glen and all her family, a creative [illegible] and a most loyal and generous friend, she will be missed by everyone who knew her in England and abroad. A celebration of her life will be held on a date to be announced. Instead of flowers, donations may be made to Dr Spittle's Marathon Cancer Fund, Middlesex Hospital, London W1N 8AA, or to King Alfred School Centenary Appeal, London NW11 7HY.

[illegible] - Robert Graham, aged 81, on November 15th. Much loved and loving father and grandfather. Funeral at West London Crematorium, Harrow Road, W10 on Thursday November 20th at 2.15 pm.

[illegible] - E.W. Gerrard, peacefully on 13th November aged 91 years. Beloved husband of the late Ernestine, father of Timothy, Diana, Valerie and Nigel, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Petersfield, on Monday 24th November at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but if desired donations to be equally divided between All Saints Church, Steep and St Peter's Church, Petersfield may be sent to Funeral Services (Petersfield) Ltd., 39 The Square, Petersfield, Hants. Tel: (01730) 262711.

[illegible] - At St Mary's Nursing Home, [illegible], Derby, on Saturday 15th November 1997, Monsignor Canon [illegible], aged 103 years. Funeral to take place in St Mary's, Bridgegate, Derby. Reception of the body Tuesday 25th November, 7 pm. Funeral Mass Wednesday 26th November at 11 am, followed by burial in Nottingham Road Cemetery, Derby. Requiescat in Pace.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

[illegible] - George James, Reuters Training Editor. A Memorial Service will be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, City of London, on Monday 24th November 1997 at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

KLOMAROUSIS - Henry. Dear Daddy - Happy Birthday. We all love and miss you very much. Georgina.

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OBITUARIES

STEFAN LORANT

Stefan Lorant, photojournalist, died in Rochester, Minnesota, on November 14 aged 96. He was born on February 22, 1901.

Best remembered in this country as the first editor of the magazine *Picture Post*, Stefan Lorant was one of the founders of modern picture journalism. He combined a remarkable visual memory and knowledge of photographic techniques with strong political feelings and an acute journalistic sense.

At a time when news photographers were content to present official likenesses and compose formal records of occasions, Lorant insisted that they must get inside the occasion, capture the feel of events as they were happening, and expose the angry or tormented face behind the official portrait. This policy coincided with developments, particularly in the miniature camera, which gave photographers a new capacity to capture movement and expression.

These new possibilities Lorant exploited to the utmost. As a result, the magazines he edited were informal but immediate: this was the world as the ordinary man experiences it, not as the authorities wish it to appear. Strongly anti-Nazi, he used photographs as cartoons to dramatise viewpoints and arouse emotions. In particular, coming to Britain in the politically complacent early Thirties, he did much to awaken the somnolent British people to the grim realities of Hitler's Germany.

Born in Budapest, Lorant was one of a small group of talented Hungarian Jews who left their country after the First World War because they could make no living and see no future. Lorant went first in 1920 to Berlin, where he found work as violinist in a movie-house for silent pictures; then on to Vienna, where he became a film cameraman and learnt German.

Two years later he returned to Berlin and started a long career in journalism, which in 1931 brought him to Munich as Editor of the *Münchner Illustrierte Presse*. He was soon making a name for himself, but when Hitler came to power in 1933, Lorant with other editors was imprisoned. Released through the agitation of Hungarian journalists, he reached England in 1934, having learnt some English during his imprisonment.

In London he approached Odhams Press, for which he successfully launched *Weekly Illustrated*, though he left after only a few months. The next two years were spent freelancing and producing his book *I Was Hitler's Prisoner*, which would sell almost half a million copies as a paperback.

In 1937, on a tiny amount of capital put up by Sydney (later Lord) Jacobson, and Alison Blair, he launched the pocket magazine *Lilliput*. Original subject matter, humour, Continental writers new to the British public, and the Editor's picture sense brought instant popularity. The magazine carried no advertising, and so was published at a loss. Obviously, though, it had a future, and Lorant sold it after little more than a year to the Hulton Press, recently founded by Sir Edward Hulton, for whom Lorant at once started to prepare a new picture magazine. After some hesitation because of the threat of war, *Picture Post* appeared in October 1938.

Lorant remained Editor only until July 1940, when — having failed to gain British nationality and out of resentment at being officially treated in wartime as an enemy alien — he left for the United States. But he had already put his mark on the new magazine, and its rapid rise to a sale approaching 1½ million copies a week was the most dramatic British publishing achievement of its day.

The reason he subsequently gave for staying in America was his determination to avoid having to see again his successor as Editor of *Picture Post* (whom he felt had received an unfair share of the credit). Indeed, he resolved to outlive Sir Tom Hopkinson. This accomplished, Lorant returned to Britain to be garlanded with accolades as an honoured speaker at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television at Bradford in November 1990 (Hopkinson had died that June). Lorant's speech was the most elaborate ever given at an annual assembly there, including details of how much he had been paid for what and when, and culminating in his tuneful rendition of the ditty *I Saw her Picture in the Picture Post*.

His differences with Tom Hopkinson were elucidated by his description of their very different working methods: "*Picture Post* came out of one fellow's brain. I never asked or consulted anybody. I never held an editorial meeting. That's why Tom and I didn't get on: he could ask what was going into the next issue and I wouldn't know until 10pm the previous evening."

In America, Lorant settled down in Massachusetts, where he stayed almost to the end of his life, working mainly on photographic books and contributions to periodicals. His *Lincoln: The Picture Story of his Life* — which included all known photographs of the President and a few that Lorant himself unearthed — sold more than a quarter of a million copies.

Lorant had a streak of the scholar in him, and his other books included *The New World*, a study of the American Indians as seen by visiting artists in Elizabethan times; lives of Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt; a history of the city of Pittsburgh; and *Sieg Heil! An Illustrated History of Germany from Bismarck to Hitler*.

Dissatisfied with a succession of publishers, he took to publishing under his own imprint of Authors Edition Inc, and for some years prior to his death had been engaged on a multi-volume autobiography under the general title *I Dared*.

Stefan Lorant was a brilliant journalist with a unique knowledge of photography, which he understood as a professional cameraman, and also as an editor and historian. He was an egocentric personality who charmed both men and women at first meeting, but with whom few found it possible to work on a long-term basis.

Lorant was married three times. He is survived by his third wife and two sons, and also by a son by his first wife, Njura, who had come with him to Britain.

WILLOUGHBY NORMAN

Willoughby Norman, honorary president and former chairman of Boots, died on October 28 aged 88. He was born on October 12, 1909.

AS A young management executive after the war, Willoughby Norman helped to found farms and gardens department of Boots, and went on to lead the company through a period of steady expansion in the 1960s. He was chairman in 1968 when Boots acquired the Timothy White and Taylor retail chain, and four years later he led the company's £350 million bid to take over Glaxo (though this was eventually blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission).

The highly successful anti-inflammatory drug Ibuprofen was also launched during his 12 years at the top, earning huge revenue for Boots Pharmaceuticals before the subsidiary was sold by the group two years ago.

Willoughby Rollo Norman was born in Surrey, the second son of Sir Henry Norman, Bt, journalist, novelist and, more notably, Liberal MP for Blackburn. His mother was a daughter of the 1st Lord Aberconway. He went from Eton to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he took a second in politics, philosophy and economics. He spent much of his time, however, riding in point-to-points — a passion which almost proved his undoing.

Shortly after graduating, he broke his back in a riding

accident and spent six months in hospital. This effectively ended his first ambition of pursuing a career in the Grenadier Guards. He turned instead to the City and insurance broking.

Another event which was to dictate the course of his life was his marriage in 1934 to Barbara Boot, elder daughter of the 2nd Baron Trent and granddaughter of the remarkable Victorian Jesse Boot, who founded the pharmaceutical giant. In 1939 it was decided that he should join the family firm as a management trainee.

In 1931, however, he had sought to compensate for the loss of a military career by joining the Territorial Army, and when the Second World War broke out was called to the colours with the Grenadiers. He subsequently fought in France with the British Expeditionary Force, and joined the evacuation at Dunkirk.

But this early experience of action had exposed a difficulty in carrying heavy loads as a result of his earlier injury. Transferred to the Military Police, he spent the rest of the war in this country, much to his disappointment, being demobilised in 1945 with the rank of major.

Picking up where he had left off before the war, he now joined Boots as a management trainee and, as the son-in-law of the chairman, rapidly began his ascent through the executive ranks. In 1954 he was made vice-chairman of the Boots Pure Drugs Company, the manufacturing subsidiary, then in 1961 moved up to take over as chairman of the parent firm. He announced his retirement in 1972, at about the time that his first marriage was dissolved after 38 years. He was made honorary president, however, and retained the position for the rest of his life.

He also accepted the appointment of deputy chairman of English China Clays, under the chairmanship of Lord Aberconway, his cousin and a close lifelong friend and business associate. At one time or another he also held seats on the boards of the National Westminster Bank, Sheepbridge Engineering and Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance. He served as High Sheriff of Leicestershire in 1960.

His off-duty interests included shooting and farming. In his younger days he also hunted with the Belvoir.

In 1972 he received some unsought publicity as the victim of a "mugging" by two troopers of the Household Cavalry. The soldiers set about him as he was walking home late one evening through Knightsbridge, leaving him with a broken nose, broken teeth and two black eyes. The incident led to public controversy when both the Army and the police were accused of underplaying its seriousness and of failing to issue a formal apology to Norman.

Willoughby Norman is survived by his second wife, Caroline, and by a son and two daughters from his first marriage.

H. C. 'NUGGET' COOMBS

H.C. ("Nugget") Coombs, Australian public servant and former Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, died on October 29 aged 91. He was born on February 24, 1906.

TWO contemporary Australians have been nationally known as "Nugget". One is the dashing cricketer Keith Miller, the other was H. C. Coombs. Such a tag for a sportsman is unsurprising, but it is a reflection of the stature and influence of Coombs as a near-legendary public servant that he, too, should have won such a badge of popular acceptance.

This approval stemmed partly from Australian appreciation of a battler — the man from humble origins who worked his way to the top. Herbert Cole Coombs was the son of a stationmaster in a tiny Western Australian township, and his parents made real sacrifices for his education. His nickname was acquired at school: "They used to say every bullock team needs a nugget. They're a bit stupid, but they work hard. I was always stocky and active, and the name followed me."

Starting work as a pupil-teacher, Coombs studied part-time at the University of Western Australia, where he won a first. His reading introduced him to the world of economics, and he was to be absorbed by its theory and practice for the rest of his life.

His social conscience was sharpened by a period at the London School of Economics, where he arrived in 1931 on a scholarship, eventually taking his doctorate with a thesis on central banking. When John Maynard Keynes published his great *General Theory* in 1936, Coombs devoured it, describing it as "the most seminal intellectual event" of his life. He became an ardent Keynesian, believing firmly in increasing demand by government spending; but later Coombs felt a more market-based approach to be justified.

It was natural that on his return home he should join the Commonwealth Bank of Australia as an assistant economist. Established in 1911, run by a single governor, acting as a central bank and offering trading and savings facilities in competition with the private banks, the Commonwealth Bank was a principal architect of national economic policy.

Coombs transferred in 1939 to the Federal Treasury, where he was not especially happy,

but in 1942 his potential was recognised by the Labour Prime Minister John Curtin, who appointed him Director of Rationing. Although he had joined the Volunteer Defence Corps when Japan advanced, Coombs was a pacifist, so this appointment resolved any dilemma he might have felt about war service.

A year later, he was named Director-General of Postwar Reconstruction, and he showed such imagination and vigour in this vital role that in 1949 the new Labour Prime Minister, Ben Chifley, appointed him Governor of the Commonwealth Bank. His reputation was such that when Robert Menzies swept Labour out of power a few months later and was urged by colleagues to oust Coombs from the Commonwealth Bank, he shrewdly refused.

Menzies was later to describe Coombs as "a man of the most conspicuous ability, and of the most shining integrity". That judgment was a pointer to the way Coombs came to be regarded as an essential arm of government: he was to serve seven Prime Ministers, of both Left and Right, some in later years clearly using him as a source of reflected glory.

When he retired in 1968, after a hugely influential term as Governor of the Reserve Bank (which had taken over central bank functions in a break-up of the old Commonwealth Bank), Coombs was able to devote his energies to personal interests, as chairman of two new bodies, the Council for the Arts and the Council for Aboriginal Affairs.

A tireless campaigner for the Aboriginal people, he was never a do-gooder, but believed that they deserved the traditional Australian "fair go". In 1993 he was the only white invited to an historic land rights summit of 400 Aboriginal leaders. Coombs also was active in encouraging establishment of the Australian National University in Canberra: he was elected its Chancellor in 1968.

Though he continued busily campaigning for his various interests until a stroke slowed him down three years ago, Coombs was somewhat disillusioned by modern Australia, feeling that it had become too materialistic, losing the egalitarian approach — the "mateship" — of his youth, in which he so strongly believed as a socialist of distinctive Australian origins. Having rejected honours at various stages, he reluctantly accepted appointment to the new Order of Australia, but resigned when a later Government added ranks which Coombs felt to be too class-based.

He was traditionally Australian in his sporting enthusiasms: cricket in youth, succeeded by squash and then golf, with his later recreations recorded as "walking, cooking, music, reading, Aboriginal people, ecology".

He married his fellow teacher Mary Alice Ross in 1931; she survives him, along with two sons and a daughter.

BAB AND HIS OPERAS

W. S. Gilbert, born one hundred years ago to-day, found the drama trying to slough a very shabby old skin of sentiment and convention (otherwise called humbug), and he helped it, rather roughly at first, but with effect. While still a very young man, Gilbert saw a rich, prosperous, brave-fronted society, ambitious in other fields than wealth, idealistic and aspiring. He saw also innumerable differences between profession and practice.

There was certainly a touch of the rude boy about Gilbert; and, since the theatre of those days still encouraged heavy-handedness, he began his career as a dramatist by pointing and sniggering. Gilbert never changed or softened his views; nor, except by accident, did he ever learn why he could not write a good straightforward play. The reason was technical, or artistic. The canvas was too big for him. He had neither ideas nor conviction to fill it with positive statement, and on that scale ironic treatment allowed him to slop over into excess. He needed a tighter, trimmer, more conventional form. For some years he had been working, outside the theatre, in just such a form; and, when he began to dramatize the "Bab Ballads" into the shape prepared for him by the old English ballad opera, he had found himself. Some at least of the operas gain by being dressed in the original costumes because of little changes in detail; but it is only in detail that his operas "date" because the true subject of them is not manners but conduct. Their logical cohesion is just as true now as then within the framework of "nonsense," and no less untrue in the illogical world outside. And the principle leaves him free to play all sorts of demure, logical tricks with minor affairs, showing inevitable consequences which could not possibly happen in real life. It may be "the sober truth," as a critic has said, that most of the jokes in the dialogue are elementary puns, and some of the prose rather heavy. His proper humour is satirical humour of idea and situation.

Perhaps *Iolanthe* is the most consistently Gilbertian of them all, but all are firmly held within the framework of rational nonsense. From moroseness to jollity, from sneering to romance, with parody and farcical fun and solemnly absurd character, and especially with songs that at their best are masterpieces of rhythmic skill and can be in themselves extremely pretty, he enchants us with manifold charms while he convicts us all of being humbugs.

ON THIS DAY

November 18, 1936

The Times agreed with G. K. Chesterton in putting Gilbert's ballads higher than his operas as literature, describing them as "the cream of Gilbert without Sullivan"

هكذا من الاصل

Get ready to win the £1,000 December prize

The story so far . . .

I see Big Ron has taken the Sheffield Wednesday job.
Really? Big Ron? That's amazing!
Not *that* amazing, surely.
No? Well, it certainly is brilliant news. Big Ron, eh? I think he's great.
I never suspected you were such a big fan of his.
Oh yes. Will I be able to have him as my manager?
Yes. He doesn't appear in today's lists, but you can sign him up straight away. He's valued at £1.5 million.
Superb. As you know, I've been having problems with the manager's position in my team.
Not to mention full back, striker, midfield . . .
I'll ignore that. Anyway, it doesn't matter now. Big Ron is the man to knit them all together. You know, the strong, silent type; man of few words . . .
Excuse me? Are we talking about the same person? Ron Atkinson, silent?
Ron *Atkinson*? Oh, I see. I thought you meant Big Ron from *Eastenders*. You know, the large bloke who sits in the Queen Vic all day and never says anything. Ron Tarr, I think his name is. Unsung character actor.
Hmm. The Big Ron I'm talking about is certainly a character, although I don't know about unsung.
Yes, I've got him now. Some sort of TV commentator, isn't he?
As a sideline. He has pedigree as a football manager, you know. He once managed Manchester United when they won their first ten games of the season.
So they won the league, then?
Finished fourth, I believe.
But he still might do something for Sheffield Wednesday?
He might well. He loves flair players, so expect to see Carbone and Di Canio given licence to attack.
What about the defence? Does he favour a flat back four? Three centre-backs?
He's not generally associated with defence in the popular imagination, to tell the truth.
I'm not too worried about it either, if I'm honest. I *was* thinking about signing Andy Booth, though. He scored a hat-trick in his last game.
Yes, but don't forget that Wednesday are playing Arsenal this Saturday. It might not be so easy for Booth against Tony Adams and David Seaman.
Any suggestions, then?
How about someone from north of the border?
I can't afford Negri.
There are others, you know.
But I don't know much about Scottish football.
Funny you should say that . . .

Every month a £1,000 prize awaits a shrewd selector. Coventry's John Salako offers insight into his choices

John Salako, the Coventry City winger, has found himself more successful as a manager than as a player in his own team in the PFA section of ITF.

"Yes, I chose myself," he said. "The price was right! Plus I have myself in there as an incentive to do well and score goals; but it's been a frustrating season." Currently injured, Salako has seen a promising beginning to the campaign fade somewhat. "If I had scored three or four more goals — and I have had chances, especially against Sheffield Wednesday — it would have been excellent."

Salako the manager, however, sees his team, Flicky's Flyers, in third place in the PFA mini-league.

Important contributions have been made by two former teammates from his days at Crystal Palace, now both England internationals with other clubs: Nigel Martyn, the goalkeeper, and Ian Wright.

"Now Nigel's at Leeds, and I felt George Graham would have a good back five." (He also chose David Robertson, the Leeds full-back.) Salako, who has himself played five times for the full England side, fully supports Glenn Hoddle's decision to pick Martyn for England, and was pleased to see him keep a clean sheet at Wembley on Saturday against Cameroon. "I rate him in the top three in the country, although he's going to have a brainstorm now and then. I think he used them all up in the home game with Derby [when Leeds trailed 3-0 before coming back to win 4-3]."

Wright, Arsenal's record goalscorer, and striking partner Mark Bright gave Salako the nickname "Flicky" when all three played together at Selhurst Park. "I'm not called it too much at Coventry, but whenever I see them, that's what they call me. I quite like it. I know Ian [Wright] very well; I think he's phenomenal. I want him to do well." And so far, he has.

Salako has paired Wright with Marco Negri in his team. "He's had a fantastic season. Rangers strikers always do well. He was a bit of an unknown quantity. I fancied Laudrup at the start of the season, but I didn't pick him in the end." A good choice: of the two, Negri is the top points scorer in ITF, while Laudrup has been a relative disappointment.

Rio Ferdinand and Colin Hendry are opponents who have earned Salako's respect, and places in his team's defence, while joining Salako in midfield are Patrick Vieira ("running the show for Arsenal"), Gary Speed of Everton ("a hard-working midfield player who gets forward and scores goals, especially with his head") and Eric Tinkler of Barnsley ("You've got to include a bargain buy — it's pot luck whether or not he comes good"). Tinkler's score so far is 1-4 — one fewer than Salako's own.

THE TIMES ITF INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

FLICKY'S FLYERS

Nigel Martyn	Leeds
David Robertson	Leeds
John Beresford	Newcastle
Rio Ferdinand	West Ham
Colin Hendry	Blackburn
Eric Tinkler	Barnsley
Patrick Vieira	Arsenal
Gary Speed	Everton
John Salako	Coventry
Ian Wright	Arsenal
Marco Negri	Rangers
Gordon Strachan	Coventry

Salako: selected Ian Wright and Nigel Martyn, two of his former Crystal Palace colleagues

HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?
Call the ITF Checkline on
0891 884 643
50p a minute, using a Touch-tone telephone. Public telephones cost twice as much.

FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new *Times* Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (womens, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your Faxback is:

0991 111 333

If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0171-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE £50,000 top prize £1,000 monthly prize

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE Professionals choose their fantasy team

STUDENTS' LEAGUE Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

YOUTH LEAGUE Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1	S Brooks	Sandras Specials	391
2	P Sloan	Patsie Utd	383
3	S Reader	Sophie Reader Fa	379
4	B Fletcher	Ab Fab	373
5	L Emery	Buggsy's Boys	371
6	P Johnston	XII Superstars	370
7	P Bee	Bumble Five	368
8	S Whitfield	Snail Busters	367
9	S Catchpole	Blue Boys	362
10	A Bearn	Harry's Heroes	360
10	H Irvine	Hel's Belles	360
12	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	358
13	P Beattie	Sounds Good	356
14	V Douglass	The Belle Delll	354
14	B Sharp	Penfield FC	354
16	A Gallagher	The Lynch Mob	352
16	J Bitmead	Janet's Allstars	352
16	J Lumsdaine	Ajax Leamington	352
19	C Purdy	Kates Cosmos	350
19	C McKnight	Real Fleshe X	350

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1	N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	439
2	G Wilson	Dog Soldiers	417
3	N Wheatley	Witheridge Is Ill	410
4	C Marianczak	Jansen's Xi	388
5	T Gardner	6 Chumbawumbas	385
6	N Wheatley	A Tight Horse Is Fun	383
7	I McGill	The White Helmets	379
8	P Henson	Hensonhammers	374
9	J Windeatt	Father Shabooboo	373
10	HK Gujadhur	Hem's Eleventh	370
11	Z Tezer	Ziggy Greaves Xi	368
12	Steven Shipley	Set Against	364
13	C Van Hough	The Boy Sprouts	363
14	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	358
15	J Pettigrew	Tor Cosmos	355
15	D Dwyer	Fowler Reserves	355
17	A Clifford	Smelly Tubbies	354
17	J Frost	Variety Sports Inter	354
17	J Liversidge	Real Ramsbottom	354
20	M Maleke	Rangers 12	353

YOUTH LEAGUE

1	D Lewis	Lewis Boys 11	414
2	C Marianczak	Jansen's Xi	388
3	P Carter	Spartak Carter	371
4	G Calderbank	Calders XI	367
5	R Wicke	Robbed	366
5	M Roberts	Krystonia Three	366
7	E Swirles	Esthers Entertainers	364
8	R Alden	Cornholios Boyz	363
9	M Somapala	Horley Flames	360
9	T Smith	Up The League Fc	360
11	M McPhillips	Ballygallyrovers	359
12	D Greenman	Thekopfirthecup	358
12	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	358
14	D Miller	Britains Best	355
15	N Brotherton	Total Commitment	354
15	D Cheetham	Clifton Rovers	354
15	Z Zakifatir	Zacks Army	354
18	R Caulfield	Cauf's Dwarfs	353
19	T Stansfield	Guildford Goals	351
19	S Mawer	Forest Reserves2	351

ITF LEAGUE

1	Mr D Edbrooke-Stainer	Ca	468
1	G Rainbow	Rainbows Topteam	468
3	Mr M Jones	Jbo	463
3	S Legg	Goose 4	463
5	Mike Madden	Poachers never change their sp	462
6	Mr M Jones	Jb4	456
7	C Sloan	Brantingham FC	455
8	B Fazakerley	Ufc 4	451
9	Chris Forde	Game of Two Pints	449
9	George Mijuskovich	Big Mac Europe	449
9	Malcolm Jackson	No name	449
12	Mr M Jones	Jb5	448
13	D Fenton	Out Of The Blue	447
13	D Ross	Liberns	447
15	R Calder	Bobs Boys6	445
16	J W Goody	Legion	440
16	Mr A Coleombe	Mr Wads XI	440
18	N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	439
19	Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	438
20	Mukund	Goulou Goulou	437
21	AJ Hastings	Golden Wonders	436
21	Steven Adams	Brittannia Stokies	436
23	K Furnell	Chelsea 6	434
24	G Dolan	Genesis	433
24	Mary Ann Kennedy	Too Farr	433
26	D Shuter	Don 2	432
27	Dbusby	This Years Lot	431
28	C Burr	Burr's Spurs 4	430
29	G Kooner	United	429
30	Mr M Jones	Jb2	427
31	Barba Papa a la Bacon	Novote Spoilers	425
32	J W Gandy	Jg4	424
33	V Cox	Pegasus And Unicorns	424
32	Mr S Legg	Mondo 6	424
35	J Heather	Enid 4	423
36	S Legg	Goose 5	422
37	Allison Scanlan	Flying Kiwis	421
37	P Turner	Turners Earners 5	421
39	R Yates	Fairfield Dons C	419
39	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 7	419
41	Mr Dp Knight	Knightlo	418
42	G Wilson	Dog Soldiers	417
42	P Rees	Yukon Merchants	417
42	Mr Trevor K Perry	Unsworth for England	417
42	Grady	Wormo	417
42	C Milner	Premier Stars	417
47	R Yates	Are Adam 2	416
47	A Birtwell	Ffe Flyers	416
47	Adam Fitzjohn	AF4	416
50	D Shuter	DON 5	415
50	T Gammage	Drowned Goldfish	415
52	Richard Callis	Sydney Celtic FC	414
52	C Scarlet	Fk 506	414
54	P Bee	Bumble Twelve	413
54	D Shuter	Russell 2	413
54	James Tan	Red Scousers	413
54	Mr A Mellon	Shorts Hits	413
58	A Neviaski	Nadar	412
58	P Bown	Bees XI	412
58	K Farhall	Keith 2	412
58	P Turner	Turners Earners 6	412
58	Mr K Lethby	Kl35	412
63	R Jones	Cell Block H	411
63	A Old Barn House	Tobilit	411
63	Chris Forde	AC Dot UK	411
63	Jeremy Dwyer	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	411
67	Mr N Wheatley	Witheridge is ill	410
67	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 3	410
67	S Legg	Goose 8	410
67	P Turner	Turners Earnt 5	410
71	Susan Makin	Spud2	409
71	Tim Oldfield	Winster Warriors 4	409
73	P Lee	Moss Marauders	408
73	Graham Watson	Hi Ate Us	408
73	Richard Keenan	R.S.B.	408
73	Mrs Sheila Burland	Teddybears Pinknicks	408
73	Alex Ratcliffe	Orlando Magic	408
73	K Farhall	Keith 9	408
73	Jon Pregon	Jp1	408
73	Mrs P Tansley	Az	408
81	Hugh Somerville	Neils XI	407
82	J Bartlett	The Wright Ones	406
82	Guido	Santamarta	406
82	Mr K Lethby	Kl43	406
85	D Shuter	Don 1	405
85	Andrew	United United	405
85	Mr Mc Gunn	Hot Shots	405
85	Mr K Lethby	Kl29	405
89	AG Henderson	Hende Four	404
89	RJ Ward	Nomchabout A FC 4	404
89	V Cox	Alan Cox Dunger Hansen	404
92	P Dunwell	Hakin Utd	403
92	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	403
92	Graham Watson	Definite Maybes	403
92	Henry Wheeler	Quim Fan	403
92	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 1	403
92	Mr D Patel	Dp2	403
98	J Strickland	CLANB	402
98	Brian O'Hare	The Warriors (Come out to play	402
98	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton A	402

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1	Paul Simpson	Derby County/Wolves	317
2	Simon Grayson	Aston Villa	304
3	John Salako	Coventry City	291
4	Dean Blackwell	Wimbledon	285
5	Alf-Inge Haaland	Leeds United	281
6	Robert Lee	Newcastle United	272
7	Steve Potts	West Ham United	269
8	Rob Savage	Leicester City	257
9	Jonathan Hunt	Derby County	253
10	Kyle Lightbourne	Coventry City	252
10	Bjorn Kvarme	Liverpool	252
12	Tim Breacker	West Ham United	248
13	David Tuttle	Crystal Palace	244
13	Richard Shaw	Coventry City	244
15	David Batty	Newcastle United	243
16	Kenny Cunningham	Wimbledon	242
17	Kevin Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	239
18	David Wetherall	Leeds United	237
19	Frank Leboeuf	Chelsea	234
20	David Seaman	Arsenal	230
21	Lee Sharpe	Leeds United	226
22	Paul Williams	Coventry City	225
23	Kevin Muscat	Crystal Palace	223
24	Kevin Hitchcock	Chelsea	221
25	Phil Babb	Liverpool	219
26	Gary Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	217
27	Dennis Wise	Chelsea	216
27	Dave Watson	Everton	216
29	Jason Euell	Wimbledon	213
29	Dean Holdsworth	Wimbledon	213
31	John Hendrie	Barnsley	211
32	Andrew Liddell	Barnsley	210
33	Neil Redfearn	Barnsley	209
33	Gareth Southgate	Aston Villa	209
35	Teddy Sheringham	Manchester United	208
36	Robbie Fowler	Liverpool	207
37	Pontus Kaamark	Leicester City	203
38	Graeme Le Saux	Chelsea	200
38	Nicky Butt	Manchester United	200
40	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	198
40	Robin Van Der Laan	Derby County	198
42	Chris Powell	Derby County	196
42	Andy Roberts	Crystal Palace	196
44	Stewart Castledine	Wimbledon	194
44	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	194
46	Kasey Keller	Leicester City	193
47	Richard Jobson	Leeds United	192
47	Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	192
49	John Beresford	Newcastle United	191
49	Ian Pearce	Blackburn Rovers/West Ham	191
51	Patrick Berger	Liverpool	190
52	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	187
53	John Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	184
54	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	183
55	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa/Middlesbrough	182
56	Andy Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	180
57	John Hartson	West Ham United	175
58	Lars Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	173
59	Steve Lomas	West Ham United	172
60	Roger Cross	Tottenham Hotspur	170
61	Darren Pitcher	Crystal Palace	167
62	Danny Williamson	Everton	163
63	Spencer Prior	Leicester City	159
64	Gary Neville	Manchester United	157
65	Nicky Eaden	Barnsley	152
66	David Beckham	Manchester United	151
67	Mark Wright	Liverpool	150
68	Ian Dowie	West Ham United	144
69	Gianfranco Zola	Chelsea	136
70	Lee Carsley	Derby County	133
71	Colin Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	124
72	Alan Shearer	Newcastle United	123
73	Alan Wright	Aston Villa	118
74	Marc Edworthy	Crystal Palace	108
75	Mike Whitlow	Leicester City/Bolton	64

INTERNET LEAGUE

1	Mike Madden	Poachers Never Change	462
2	Chris Forde	Game of Two Pints	449
2	George Mijuskovich	Big Mac Europe	449
4	Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	438
5	Mukund	Goulou Goulou	437
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14	Jeremy Dwyer	Nudge Nudge Wink Win	411
16	Susan Makin	Spud2	409
16	Tim Oldfield	Winster Warriors 4	409
18	Graham Watson	Hi Ate Us	408
18	Richard Keenan	R.S.B.	408
18	Mrs Sheila Borland	Teddybears Pinknicks	408

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

All 1997-8 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS AWARDED

Goalkeeper		**Strikers**	
Keeps clean sheet (per half)**	+3 points	Scores goal	+2 points
Scores goal	+20 points	**All players**	
Saves penalty	+1 point	On winning side	+1 point
Full backs/Central defender		Appearance†	+1 point
Keeps clean sheet*	+3 points	Scores hattrick	+10 bonus points
Scores goal	+4 points	**Manager**	
Midfield player		Wins	+3 points
Keeps clean sheet*	+1 point	Draws	+1 point
Scores goal	+3 points		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		Booked	-1 point
Concedes goal	-2 points	Concedes penalty	-1 point
Full backs/Central defender		Misses penalty	-1 point
Concedes goal	-1 point	Scores own goal	-1 point
All players		**Manager**	
Sent off	-3 points	Team loses	-1 point

** Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points *Must have played for 79 minutes in the match †Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER ITF

£1,000, a signed Mitre football and a Mitre Sports bag, and tickets to a premier league match of your choice can be won every month, plus the chance to win £10,000 in a separate FA Cup League so enter the ITF now.

The manager of the month can be won by any team, no matter where it is in the overall ITF league. The prize simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one month. If you are a student or a woman *(18 or over)* you may also enter the appropriate mini-league, while under-18 year olds enter the Youth league. These all carry separate monthly prizes.

By entering the ITF, your team will automatically be entered into a separate FA Cup league. Your players will earn you points for the FA Cup league *(Littlewoods FA Cup and Tennents Scottish FA Cup)* as well as the main ITF league.

Remember the earlier you register, the more transfers your team will be allocated.

HOW TO ENTER

Entries to ITF via The Times are now by phone only, on

0891 405 011

From the Republic of Ireland only +44 990 100 308

- You must use a Touch-tone *(DTMF)* telephone *(most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone)*.
- Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
- Do not spend more than 35 million.
- Do not choose more than two individuals *(2 players or 1 player and 1 manager)* from any one club.
- Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow the step-by-step instructions.
- You will be given a ten-digit personal indentification number *(PIN)* at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score.

A new team will score points on future games. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Your call will cost about double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one manager of the month, the winner will be chosen at random. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a tiebreak will operate.

Your full guide to players and transfers

A spell of Premiership inactivity meant that the focus of ITF activity moved north of the border last week

While most of the stars of the FA Carling Premiership were taking a well-earned break (not counting those representing their countries, be they England, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, Yugoslavia or even Jamaica), there was a full programme of matches in the Scottish Premier League.

Noticing this, some ITF players were active on the transfer market last week, acquiring players likely to accrue points in vital games, although those relying on Celtic or Rangers players were probably disappointed as Aberdeen held the Blues, while Motherwell took the points at Celtic Park.

To a number of other ITF entrants, Scottish football means one thing — Marco Negri. However, to attempt to cast more light onto what many competitors south of Hadrian's Wall see as a shadowy area of British football, we have chosen an ITF team based entirely on players playing in Scotland.

That does not, of course, necessarily mean Scottish players; Scotland, too, has seen its own influx of talent from overseas. Take Gilles Rousset, the Heart of Midlothian goalkeeper, formerly with Rennes, for instance. The Frenchman is the top points-scorer among goalkeepers in the SPL, and only David Seaman and Peter Schmeichel have better records in ITF.

Celtic have a fine tradition at full-back — names like Tommy Gemmell and Danny McGrain springing to mind — and Tom Boyd, who has scored 23 ITF points so far this season, has won 51 Scottish caps, and captained the national side in France last week. Across Glasgow, Stale Stensaas, the Norwegian, has been a consistent points-scorer while playing for Rangers.

Another Old Firm pairing at central defender looks solid; Alan Stubbs, the former Bolton Wanderers player, has proved that north-south movement is not the only possibility in transfers between the English and Scottish clubs, while Sergio Porrini played for Juventus in last season's European Champions' Cup final against Borussia Dortmund. Not that David Weir of Hearts does not also deserve a place for his 23 points so far.

To show that there is more to Scotland than the two Glasgow clubs, how about a midfield of Attila Sekerlioglu (born in Linz, Austria, despite the Turkish origins of his name) of St Johnstone, Hibernian's Barry Lavety, Robbie Winters (Dundee United) and Neil McCann of Hearts?

Naturally, no Scotland-based selection would be complete without Negri, whose points total now stands, head and shoulders above the rest of ITF, at 89. However, only two representatives of any one club are permitted in ITF teams; and so, as well as for the sake of variety, Tommy Coyne of Motherwell and Dundee United's Kjell Olofsson complete our team. The manager is Paul Sturrock, of St Johnstone.

NICK SZCZEPANIK

TOP IN SCOTLAND

Gilles Rousset	42
Tom Boyd	23
Stale Stensaas	16
Alan Stubbs	21
Sergio Porrini	25
Attila Sekerlioglu	11
Barry Lavety	19
Robbie Winters	33
Neil McCann	36
Kjell Olofsson	33
Tommy Coyne	21
Paul Sturrock	10

Rousset of Hearts: only Seaman and Schmeichel have better ITF goalkeeping records

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

IN

11602	Olafur Gottskaalksson	Hibernian	£1.5m
20603	Jimmy Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	£1.0m
20904	Roland Nilsson	Coventry City	£1.0m
22903	Tim Breaker	West Ham Utd	£2.0m
31004	Herman Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	£1.0m
32404	Richard Gough	Rangers	£4.0m
41405	John Oster	Everton	£2.5m
42505	Guy Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	£1.5m
42706	Matt Oakley	Southampton	£1.5m
51105	Paulo Wanchope	Derby County	£3.5m
51404	Danny Cadamarteri	Everton	£2.5m
51804	Harry Kewell	Leeds United	£2.0m
52304	Jon Dahl Tomasson	Newcastle United	£2.0m
52803	Jose Domingues	Tottenham Hotspur	£3.0m
53004	Carl Cort	Wimbledon	£3.0m
62502	Ron Atkinson	Sheffield Wednesday	£1.5m

OUT

12701	Maik Taylor	Southampton	£0.5m
20902	Brian Borrows	Coventry City	£1.0m

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

☐ YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

☐ EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

☐ THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

☐ YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

☐ TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

☐ YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

☐ CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	2	—9
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	47
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	28
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	-34
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn R	3.50	0	34
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	0	18
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50	—3	—3
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	0	32
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	27
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	29
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	0	24
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00	2	10
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	3	—7
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	6
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	1.50	3	42
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0	0
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	—6
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	0	37
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	2.50	0	38
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	0	32
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	62
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12301	S Given	Newcastle Utd	4.00	0	17
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	2	19
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-18
12701	M Taylor	Southampton	0.50	0	0
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00	0	0
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	0	13
12801	I Walker	Tottenham H	3.00	0	24
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	7
13001	H Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	8	40

DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	11
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	25
20203	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00	0	13
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	11
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	0	13
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50	0	12
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	0	8
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	0	—8
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	—5
20403	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00	0	—5
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn R	2.50	0	26
20503	P Valery	Blackburn R	2.50	0	8
20601	N Cox	Bolton W	2.00	0	3
21901	M Whitlow	Bolton W	1.50	0	—3
20602	R Elliott	Bolton W	2.00	0	4
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50	—1	23
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50	0	1
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	—1	18
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	0	16
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00	0	25
20802	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00	0	9
20803	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	11
20902	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	7
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	14
21002	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	7
21004	J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	0
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	11
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	0
21103	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50	0	0
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	0	—1
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	2
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	0	—2
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50	0	7
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	—1
21801	G Kelly	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	15
21802	D Robertson	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	14
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	1.50	0	25
22001	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	4.00	0	17
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
22003	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	11
22101	D Irwin	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	20
22102	G Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	26
22103	P Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	18
22301	S Watson	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	12
22302	W Barton	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	14
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	16
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	6
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00	—1	13
22402	S Stensaas	Rangers	3.00	0	16
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wedday	2.00	0	-15
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wedday	2.00	0	-12
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	1.00	0	15
22702	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	0	3
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	2
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham H	2.00	0	0
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham H	2.00	0	—3
22803	S Carr	Tottenham H	2.00	0	—2
22901	J Dicks	West Ham Utd	3.00	0	0
22902	A Impey	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	—2
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	5	12
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	5	8
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	0	1

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00	—1	-19
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.50	0	15
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0	0
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	0	15
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	11
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0	8
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.50	0	14
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	0	-21
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	0	-20
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	0	—2
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn R	3.00	0	22
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn R	2.50	0	13
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn R	2.00	0	0
30601	G Taggart	Bolton W	1.50	0	5
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton W	1.00	0	4
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton W	1.00	0	0
30604	M Fish	Bolton W	1.50	0	1
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50	—1	0
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	2
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	—1	21
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00	—2	19
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	0	24
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	8
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	11
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	—1
30901	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	15
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	2
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	8
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	7
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	0
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	0	7
31102	J Laursen	Derby County	1.50	0	10
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	1	11
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	1	—7
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50	0	-10
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00	0	2
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00	1	23
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	—1	—7
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	23
31802	G Halle	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	11
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	8
31804	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	1.50	0	9
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	0	34
31902	P Kaamark	Leicester City	2.00	0	19
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.50	0	25
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00	0	0
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	5
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0	10
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	0	16
30501	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	21
32101	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	0
32102	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	27
32301	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	8
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	8
32303	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	1
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	7
32401	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50	0	25
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	20
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	7
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	—5
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	—7
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	—5
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	0	5
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00	0	9
32801	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	4
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham H	3.00	0	0
32802	J Scales	Tottenham H	2.50	0	3
32803	R Vega	Tottenham H	2.00	0	—4
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham H	2.00	0	4
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	—4
32902	R Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	—2
32903	S Potts	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	4
32904	I Pearce	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	—8
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	5	14
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	5	13

WINGER PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00	4	13
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	0	7
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	0	33
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	0	26
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	0	1
40204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.50	0	29
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50	0	14
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00	0	20
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	0	24
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00	0	30
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00	0	14
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	0	11
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50	0	12
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn R	3.00	0	13
40502	B McKinlay	Blackburn R	3.00	0	13
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn R	3.00	0	21
40504	G Flitcroft	Blackburn R	3.00	0	18
40601	A Thompson	Bolton W	2.50	0	21
40602	S Sellars	Bolton W	2.00	0	11
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton W	2.00	0	15
40604	M Johansen	Bolton W	2.00	0	2
40605	J Pollock	Bolton W	2.00	0	15
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	0	15
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	7
40703	R Blinker	Celtic	3.00	—3	11
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00	1	26
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00	1	1
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	4.00	0	18
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	0	21
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50	0	9
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00	0	28
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	0	19
40902	T Soltvedt	Coventry City	1.50	0	17
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	0	15
40904	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	16
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	18
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00	0	21
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50	0	8
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	2.50	0	15
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	6
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	0	13
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	0	8
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0	12
41201	R Winters	Dundee Utd	3.50	2	33
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	2.00	9	37
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50	0	30
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0	4
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	0	13
41501	N McCann	Hearts	2.50	2	36
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	1	3
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00	0	19
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds Utd	3.50	0	23
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds Utd	3.00	0	10
41802	A Haaland	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	18
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	0
41804	B Ribeiro	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	0
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	1	10
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	1	22
41903	M Izzet	Leicester City	2.00	1	25
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50	0	0
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	0	35
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00	0	12
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	0	14
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00	0	10
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	5.00	0	21
42101	D Beckham	Manchester Utd	8.00	0	29
42102	R Giggs	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	30
42103	R Keane	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	23
42104	N Butt	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	31
42105	A Cole	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	44
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00	0	6
42301	R Lee	Newcastle Utd	5.00	0	20
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle Utd	3.50	0	17
42303	D Batty	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	12
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	23
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	8.00	1	24
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00	0	24
42403	J Thom	Rangers	4.00	1	8
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00	4	20
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wed	3.00	0	30
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	18
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	12
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wed	1.00	0	5
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75	0	6
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50	0	13
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	1.50	0	13
42601	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75	0	11
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham H	3.00	0	9
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham H	3.00	0	2
42803	R Fox	Tottenham H	2.00	0	15
42804	D Howells	Tottenham H	2.00	0	16
42805	D Ginola	Tottenham H	3.00	0	18
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	32
42902	S Lomas	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	15
42903	J Moncur	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	10
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.50	0	21
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00	2	15
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	3	14
42904	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00	3	16
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	2	15

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00	1	19
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	44
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50	0	44
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	7.50	0	21
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	7.00	0	12
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00	0	7
50401	G Hristow	Barnsley	1.50	0	9
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50	0	8
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00	0	13
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00	0	4
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn R	5.50	0	33
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn R	4.00	0	12
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn R	6.00	0	49
50602	N Blake	Bolton W	3.50	0	16
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton W	2.00	0	14
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton W	3.00	0	9
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00	0	5
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50	0	0
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50	1	14
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50	1	18
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00	0	20
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00	0	18
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	0	34
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50	0	16
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00	0	0
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	13
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	15
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00	0	17
51103	F Baiano	Derby County	2.00	0	33
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50	0	4
51201	A McLaren	Dundee Utd	3.00	2	18
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee Utd	2.50	4	33
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00	2	10
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	5.00	0	14
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00	0	7
51403	G Stuart	Everton	2.50	0	16
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	2	21
51502	J Hamilton	Hearts	3.00	1	1
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00	3	3
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00	0	14
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50	0	12
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds Utd	3.00	0	13
51803	R Wallace	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	33
51901	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50	1	10
51902	E Heskey	Leicester City	4.50	1	20
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.50	1	24
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00	0	8
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.50	0	18
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	0	25
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50	0	18
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50	0	0
52101	O Solskjaer	Manchester Utd	7.50	0	12
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	28
52103	P Scholes	Manchester Utd	6.00	0	21
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00	4	16
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00	0	21
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle Utd	10.00	0	0
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle Utd	6.00	0	10
52401	M Negri	Rangers	6.50	1	89
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50	0	0
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00	0	6
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wed	3.00	0	20
50702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wed	3.00	0	22
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	4
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00	0	10
52702	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50	0	19
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00	0	8
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50	0	0
52601	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50	2	15
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00	0	14
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham H	3.50	0	8
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham H	7.50	0	16
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham H	3.50	0	13
52901	J Harteon	West Ham Utd	3.50	0	33
52902	P Kitson	West Ham Utd	3.00	0	9
52903	I Dowie	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	9
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00	4	12
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	4.00	0	22

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
60101	R Aitken	Aberdeen	1.50	1	2
60201	A Wenger	Arsenal	5.00	0	26
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50	0	8
60401	D Wilson	Barnsley	0.50	0	0
60501	R Hodgson	Blackburn R	3.00	0	26
60601	C Todd	Bolton W	1.50	0	7
60701	W Jansen	Celtic	4.00	—1	21
60801	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	0	21
60901	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00	0	14
61001	S Coppell	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	11
61101	J Smith	Derby County	1.00	0	15
61201	T McLean	Dundee Utd	2.00	3	14
61301	B Paton	Dunfermline	1.00	3	14
61401	H Kendall	Everton	2.00	0	5
61501	J Jefferies	Hearts	2.50	3	28
61601	J Duffy	Hibernian	2.00	—1	2
61701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00	—1	6
61801	G Graham	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	18
61901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.50	—1	18
62001	R Evans	Liverpool	4.00	0	19
62101	A Ferguson	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	26
62201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00	3	0
62301	K Dalglish	Newcastle Utd	4.50	0	15
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00	1	23
62701	D Jones	Southampton	0.50	0	8
62601	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50	—1	8
62801	G Francis	Tottenham H	2.50	0	6
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	9
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00	3	14

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES TODAY TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 1997

NEWS

Britons die in Nile massacre

■ At least 69 foreign tourists, including two Britons, were killed in Egypt's Valley of the Queens when terrorists with machineguns opened fire as they left buses to visit the Temple of Hatshepsut.

Six terrorists and three policemen were also reported to have died in a three-hour gunfight. A further 16 critically-injured tourists were flown to a military hospital in Cairo and another five Britons were unaccounted for ..... Pages 1, 16

New smear test warning

■ The accuracy of cervical smear tests was again in question after 18,000 women were warned that over 3 per cent of them could wrongly have been given the all-clear. This latest case comes from the pathology department of the Hospital of Saint Cross at Rugby in Warwickwichire ..... Page 1

Life without euro
Britain was given a glimpse of future life outside the single currency when 11 countries ignored objections and pushed ahead with plans for a new council to manage the euro ..... Page 2

RAF officer accused
It looked like an horrific car accident when a squadron leader's wife died during an evening out with her husband. But, a court was told, he killed her ..... Page 3

Clegg defended
Lee Clegg, the paratrooper convicted of murdering a teenage joyrider in Belfast in 1990, was found guilty on the evidence of the wrong bullet, an appeal court was told ..... Page 4

Calculating killer
Kate Bushell had her throat cut by a "cold-blooded, calculating" killer who probably lay in wait for her, police said ..... Page 5

No frills flying
British Airways is to take on Britain's cheap fare, no frills airlines by cutting fares below £100 on some of the most competitive routes in Europe ..... Page 6

Coastguard revolt
Coastguards were in revolt after the service unveiled plans to shut down four stations. They said that closing Liverpool, Tyne, Oban in Argyll and Bute, and Pentland in Orkney would put lives at risk ..... Page 8

Hunt for 'beast'
A pioneer of genetic fingerprinting is to conduct DNA analysis of a possible clue to the Beast of Bodmin Moor. A recent apparent sighting has renewed the belief that puma-like creatures are at large ..... Page 10

Antiquities trade
Illicit trade in antiquities could be significantly reduced if the Government adopted an international convention on such objects, archaeologists said ..... Page 12

Farcical secrets
Uncovering German espionage efforts before and during the First World War was a matter of top priority but, as MI5 files make clear, they often bordered on the farcical ..... Page 13

Vintage year
The price of Burgundy has reinforced predictions that 1997 could be a great vintage but wine buffs fear that French wine could become too expensive ..... Page 15

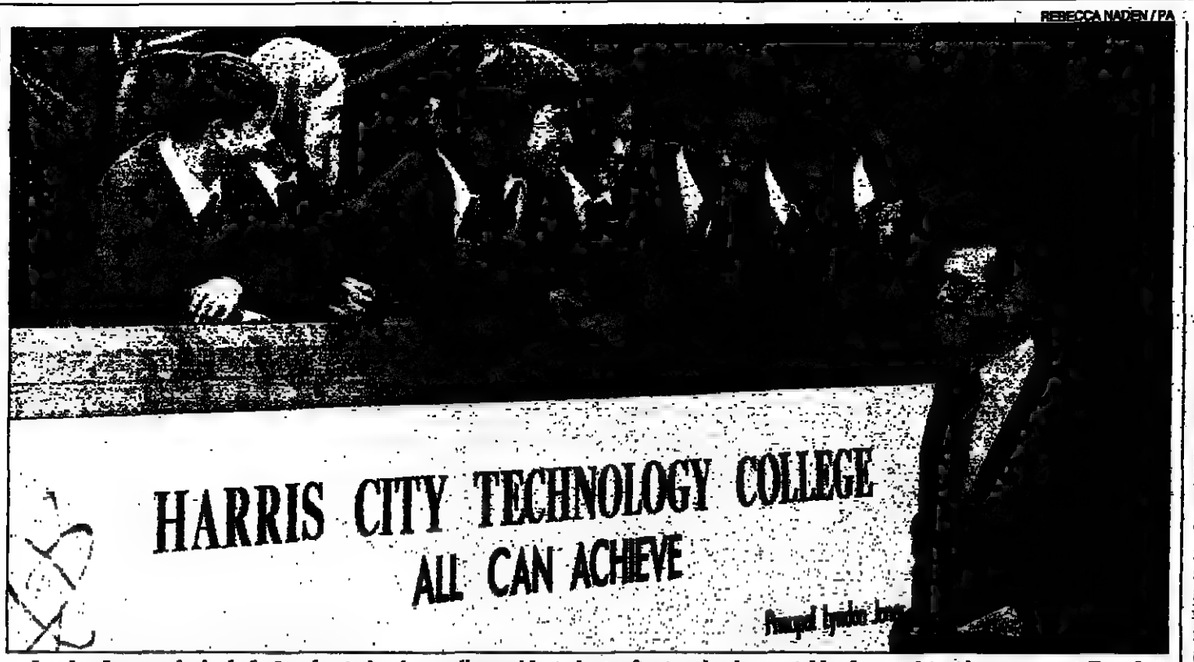
Iraq proposal
America and Britain backed away from a confrontation with Iraq, offering a proposal to lift sanctions if Saddam complied with UN resolutions ..... Page 17

Aborginal art scandal
A Welshman who claims to have produced some of Australia's most valuable indigenous paintings has found himself at the centre of a scandal ..... Page 18

God and Mammon reach agreement

■ Where St Francis led one of the City's highest-flying executives is to follow. Jim O'Donnell, chief executive officer at HSBC James Capel, is to forsake the riches of an international stockbroking career to become a priest. Mr O'Donnell, 36, a towering former American football player, astonished his colleagues when his career change was announced ..... Page 1

REBECCA NADEN / PA



Lyndon Jones, principal of a London technology college with students after topping league tables for consistent improvement. Page 1

BUSINESS

Big bite: Shares in United Biscuits enjoyed their highest-ever one-day gain after the group unveiled an asset swap with PepsiCo that will enable it to return £150 million to shareholders ..... Page 29

Russian oil: Both Shell and BP announced deals to take advantage of the opening up of the Russian oil industry ..... Page 29

Reconstruction: Brian Staples, who was ousted as chief executive of United Utilities in July, will return to the public arena as chief executive of Amey, the construction group ..... Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 125.2 to 4867.0. Sterling was unchanged at 104.1 after a falling from $1.6947 to $1.6925 but rising from DM2.9334 to DM2.9341 ... Page 32

SPORT

Football: River Plate, of Argentina, have put a £20 million valuation on Marcello Salas, the Chile striker, whom Manchester United are interested in signing ..... Page 56

Rugby union: Phil Larder, a former Great Britain rugby league coach, has joined the England set-up with a view to being appointed national development officer ..... Page 56

Agent power alert: The Professional Cricketers' Association is concerned about the influence of players' agents and is examining moves to curb their increasing power ..... Page 56

Canoeing: A top coach is heading a campaign to stop Britain's top competitors being forced to use the slalom course at Holme Pierrepont because of polluted water .. Page 56

Fired up: Mary J. Blige, self-styled queen of hip hop soul, fills Wembley Arena with fireworks in a roller-coaster of a show that leaves her street cred intact ..... Page 38

Briefly noted: In our new column of news briefs, Edinburgh's Dental Institute calls in four installation artists to give patients something else to worry about ..... Page 38

Airy-fairy: The Royal Academy's new show is bursting with fairies, sprites, nymphs and other figments of the laudanum-fuelled Victorian imagination ..... Page 39

Gypsy soul: In *Caravan*, Helen Blakeman's promising first full-length play, five characters exchange easy dialogue in their ingeniously designed mobile home ..... Page 40

Danger town: The diary of Lynne Mastnak, an Englishwoman, who is the only practising psychiatrist in Gorazde ..... Page 20

Rest uneasy: Benefit rules are forcing "resting" actors into roles that are anything but dignified. Grace Bradberry reports ..... Page 21

Risky business: Philip Delves Broughton was labelled an Aids risk by bankers who think cohabiting males must be gay ..... Page 21

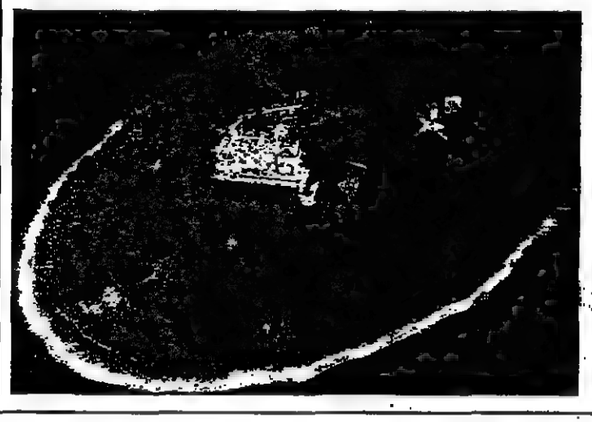
Bad taste: Toby Mynott, a marketing whiz-kid, had a business idea for a brewery — but it fell flat. Now older and wiser, he explains how it went wrong ..... Page 37

Inequalities: Frances Gibb says why lawyers are worried that the Lord Chancellor's legal plans to help middle-income-earners may cause fresh inequalities ..... Page 41

Minority aid: Some people from ethnic minorities still face a cement ceiling when they enter the legal profession. A conference aims to change that ..... Page 43

The United States' partners are right to be worried about the curb on the strategy of free trade which has just taken place in Washington. There is nothing to indicate the American administration is capable of putting the fast track train back on the rails quickly

— Le Monde



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **HOMES**
A Georgian house on a beautiful seven-acre island in Derwent Water is to rent from the National Trust

■ **INTERFACE**
Forget brushes and canvas . . . today's young artists use computers

Preview: The Jehovah's Witnesses let the cameras in for the first time. *Cutting Edge: The End Is Nigh* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph on the demented Quentin Willson ..... Pages 50, 51

Power to parents
Whatever their imperfections, league tables have been an invaluable innovation and one that this government has been wise to acknowledge. The continuing resistance of teaching unions does not suggest that academic performance is their highest priority ..... Page 23

Blood on the Nile
Terrorism feeds on frustration and repression. When it vents its anger so terribly on the innocent, Governments must look beyond their security forces to deeper causes of malaise ..... Page 23

Streetwise birds
Pigeons are the shabby grey unemployables of city life. The gentle and plump birds have an urban strut and bob of the head as characteristic as those of commuters in the rush hour ..... Page 23

LIBBY PURVES
Everywhere you find muddle and evasion and lack of commitment and unregarded ministers and chronic short-termism. There are Third World countries which have more coherent environmental policies than we do ..... Page 22

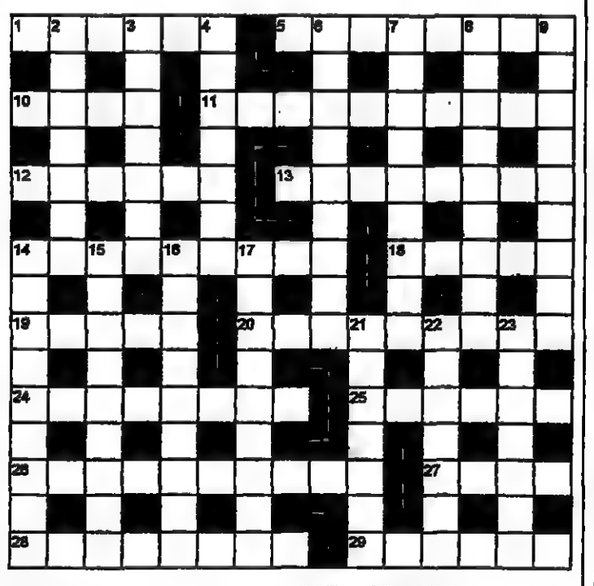
ANATOLE KALETSKY
The Oxbridge fee, which supports the two universities' unusual system of personal tuition in semi-independent residential colleges, could become a defining issue for Mr Blair ..... Page 22

PETER RIDDELL
The true story of the Ecclestone affair has started to emerge — and it is more muddle and inexperience than scandal ..... Page 14

Stefan Lorant, first editor of *Picture Post*; **H.C. "Nugget" Coombs**, Australian public servant; **Willoughby Norman**, of Boots ..... Page 25

Party funding; compensation for firearms; God and science; Sir Malcolm Rifkind on the single currency; electoral reform; aircraft carriers ..... Page 2

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,640



ACROSS
1 Thames boatman as replacement for pilot (6).
5 A trifle irritating? (4-4).
10 Adventurous chap one invited finally went with expedition (4).
11 Stop and put money in safe place, directly (5-5).
12 It removes lead in match (6).
13 Ring County to make request (4,4).
14 Share distribution with bona fide cover gets a going-over (9).
18 Keep track of time at the bar (5).
19 Concealed in unfair erection, such as wooden horse (5).
20 Having place for spectators to see bear (9).
24 Remains well connected? (8).
25 She may get stoned, joining others in a brandy (6).
26 Two fellows being whimsically humorous (10).
27 Musical production often produced without us (4).
28 Unscrupulous lawyers creating a lot of panic on board (8).
29 Farmers getting old in the country (6).

DOWN
2 Champion has new pose to practise (7).
3 Like a broken horse given free with gifts (7).
4 By entering Rome from the South becomes ruler (7).
6 Vehicle from the country allowed to carry gold (9).
7 Morning bus behind schedule coming in, so walks (9).
8 Quickly desert a lover (9).
9 Type left in dreadful need, being fired (9).
14 By the way, these are travel guides (4,5).
15 Shop early, otherwise there's rough-and-tumble (9).
16 Deal in harmony (9).
17 Had a medical appointment for getting teeth sharpened (3-6).
21 Neck, rolling in the grass, here in London (7).
22 Lot more movement due to rapid changes in pitch (7).
23 Railway workers taking track over with English train (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,639

Times Two Crossword, page 56

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.24 am — Sun sets: 4.07 pm
Moon sets: 10.53 am — Moon rises: 8.02 pm
Last quarter November 21
London 4 07 pm to 7 25 am
Bristol 4 17 pm to 7 35 am
Edinburgh 4 00 pm to 7 57 am
Manchester 4 08 pm to 7 42 am
Penzance 4 34 pm to 7 42 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** most of England and Wales will be overcast with spells of rain, but the extreme south east should stay dry. Scotland will have a very windy day with gales or severe gales on coasts and hills, with outbreaks of heavy rain in the morning. Northern Ireland will be windy and mainly cloudy with some showers.
☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England:** mild and bright, then cloud and risk of rain in the west. Wind moderate, southeast. Max 14C (57F)
☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N England, NE England:** dry then cloudy, with heavy rain expected later. A brisk southeast wind. Max 14C (57F)
☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** heavy rain in the morning, perhaps brighter later. Mild. A strong southeast wind. Max 14C (57F).
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Shetland:** very windy with outbreaks of heavy rain slowly clearing. The southeasterly wind will touch gale force at times. Max 14C (57F).
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney:** heavy rain with more showers possible in the afternoon. A strong to gale force southeast wind. Max 14C (57F).
☐ **N Ireland:** mostly cloudy with one or two showers. A strong southeast wind. Max 14C (57F).
☐ **Republic of Ireland:** spells of rain moving northeast, wind strong or gale force, southwest. Mild. Max 13C (55F).
☐ **Outlook:** mostly cloudy with further rain in most areas, especially the west. Temperatures still well above average.

24 hrs to 6 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.3	0.03	12	54	du
Anglesey	0.1	0.03	16	61	r
Aspatria	0.5	-	16	61	c
Aviemore	0.3	0.01	13	55	c
Belfast	-	0.16	14	57	r
Birmingham	0.7	0.02	14	57	d
Bognor R	-	0.01	14	57	du
Bournem'th	-	0.01	15	59	c
Bristol	-	0.02	16	61	c
Buxton	-	0.07	12	54	du
Cardiff	-	0.15	15	59	r
Clacton	0.4	-	12	54	du
Colwyn Bay	2.0	0.01	17	63	b
Cromer	-	0.01	13	55	du
Eastbourne	-	0.04	14	57	c
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.04	13	55	r
Exmouth	0.2	0.15	15	59	r
Falmouth	-	0.08	15	59	c
Fishguard	-	0.09	15	59	r
Folkestone	0.4	-	14	57	c
Glasgow	-	0.03	15	59	r
Guernsey	-	0.04	16	61	d
Hastings	0.1	0.01	14	57	c
Herne Bay	-	0.01	14	57	du
Hove	0.2	-	15	59	du
Hunstanton	X	0.14	14	57	du
Isle-of-man	-	0.06	15	59	r
Isle-of-wight	0.1	0.01	14	57	c
Jersey	0.1	0.03	14	57	r
Kinloss	-	0.01	15	59	c
Leeds	-	0.06	14	57	r
Lerwick	-	0.15	11	52	du
Leuchars	-	0.07	13	55	r
Littlehmptn	-	0.02	15	59	du
London	-	0.03	15	59	c
Lowestoft	-	0.01	12	54	c
Manchester	0.1	0.01	15	59	c
Margate	-	0.01	13	55	du
Minehead	-	0.08	16	61	sh
Morecambe	-	0.01	16	61	du
Newcastle	-	0.13	14	57	r
Newquay	-	0.16	15	59	sh
Norwich	-	0.01	13	55	du
Oxford	0.2	0.02	15	59	r
Penzance	X	0.12	15	59	g5
Poole	0.5	0.01	16	61	sh
Ross-o-wye	-	0.02	15	59	sh
Saunton Snd	-	-	16	61	du
Scarboro'	-	0.04	13	55	du
Shrewsbury	-	0.01	15	59	r
Skegness	-	0.01	12	54	c
Southend	-	-	14	57	du
Southsea	0.4	-	15	59	du
Stornoway	-	0.35	13	55	r
Teignmouth	0.1	0.15	15	59	sh
Tenby	-	0.02	15	59	g
Tiree	-	0.33	13	55	r
Torquay	0.1	0.20	15	59	d
West-s-mare	-	0.08	15	59	c
Weymouth	0.2	0.02	15	59	c

Abroad

Ajaccio	15	59	c	C'phagn	5	41	c	Malta	X			Salzburg	5	41	r
Akrotiri	23	73	s	Dublin	15	59	c	Melb'rne	16	61	c	Santiago	24	75	s
Alex'dria	22	72	f	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Mexico C	18	64	s	Seoul	15	59	f
Algiers	20	68	c	Faro	19	66	f	Miami	26	79	s	Sing'por	26	79	r
Amst'dm	11	52	c	Florence	7	45	f	Milan	15	59	s	Stockholm	2	36	m
Athens	18	64	f	Frankfurt	9	48	c	Montreal	-1	30	X	Strasb'rg	9	48	b
B Aires	22	72	s	Funchal	23	73	s	Moscow	0	32	fr	Sydney	26	79	s
Bahrain	21	70	f	Geneva	8	46	c	Munich	6	43	c	Tangier	22	72	s
Bangkok	32	90	s	Gibraltar	17	63	c	N Delhi	23	73	s	Tel Aviv	27	81	s
Barbados	30	86	f	Helsinki	3	37	c	N York	4	39	s	Tenerife	25	77	f
Barcelona	18	64	s	Hong K	29	84	f	Nairobi	21	70	f	Tokyo	17	63	f
Beirut	24	75	s	Innsbruck	5	41	c	Naples	15	59	f	Toronto	-2	28	s
Belgrade	7	45	s	Istanbul	16	61	f	Nice	13	55	f	Tunis	19	66	f
Berlin	5	41	c	Jeddah	32	90	s	Oslo	5	41	c	Valencia	20	68	s
Bermuda	25	77	f	Jo'burg	16	61	t	Paris	15	59	c	Vanc'ver	6	43	f
Biarritz	21	70	s	L Angeles	17	63	s	Peking	1	34	s	Venice	10	50	s
Borde'x	16	61	s	L Palmas	24	75	s	Perth	21	70	s	Vienna	4	39	r
Brussels	12	54	c	Le Tquet	17	63	f	Prague	4	39	c	Warsaw	5	41	c
Budapest	6	43	c	Lisbon	18	64	c	Reykjavik	4	39	s	Wash'ton	6	43	f
Cairo	24	75	s	Locarno	11	52	s	Rhodes	16	61	r	Wel'ngton	13	55	X
Cape Tn	15	59	r	Luxembg	8	46	fg	Rio de J	27	81	f	Zurich	9	48	f
Ch'church	12	54	X	Luxor	29	84	s	Riyadh	17	63	f				
Chicago	-3	27	s	Madrid	10	50	s	Rome	13	55	f				
Cologne	11	52	f	Majorca	19	66	s	S Fr'isco	13	55	s				
Corfu	16	61	s	Malaga	20	68	s	S Paulo	X						

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday X = not available

Changes to the chart below from noon: high F will move slowly east with little change. Low F will move north and slowly fill. Low G will move north and deepen. Low S will lose its identity

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	03.55	7.3	16.15	7.4	Leith	04.46	5.6	17.05	5.4
Aberdeen	03.24	4.3	15.39	4.2	Liverpool	01.07	9.4	13.25	8.3
Avonmouth	08.21	13.1	21.45	12.6	Lowestoft	11.48	2.5	-	-
Belfast	01.02	3.4	13.19	3.6	Margate	02.00	4.8	14.22	4.8
Cardiff	09.07	12.2	21.31	11.7	Milford Haven	08.22	8.9	20.46	8.6
Devonport	08.00	5.5	20.24	5.2	Newquay	07.14	6.9	19.30	6.6
Dover	00.53	6.7	13.10	6.6	Oban	07.33	4.0	20.07	3.7
Dublin (N Wall)	01.32	4.2	13.51	4.2	Penzance	06.42	5.5	19.04	5.2
Falmouth	07.31	5.3	19.55	5.0	Portland	09.51	2.2	21.21	1.9
Glenrock	02.35	3.5	14.38	3.8	Portsmouth	01.12	4.7	13.27	4.6
Harwich	01.46	4.0	14.04	4.1	Shoreham	01.03	6.2	13.15	6.1
Holyhead	00.15	5.8	12.34	5.6	Southampton	00.39	4.6	12.59	4.6
Hull (Albert D)	08.28	8.6	20.43	8.6	Swansea	08.22	9.4	20.44	9.0
Ilfracombe	06.06	9.1	20.30	8.7	Tees	05.43	5.4	18.01	5.3
King's Lynn	08.33	6.6	20.46	6.5	Walton-on-N	01.37	4.2	13.56	4.2

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Colwyn Bay, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: St Angelo, Co Fermanagh, 0.67in; highest sunshine: Colwyn Bay, 2.0hr.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 1997

Shell and BP battle over Russian fuel reserves

By Carl Mortished

SHELL and BP are racing head-to-head in a multibillion-dollar contest to secure access to Russia's oil and gas reserves. The two companies yesterday announced strategic alliances with Russian partners worth a total of $1.7 billion (£1.06 billion) aimed at developing huge gas reserves in Siberia.

BP has agreed to acquire a 10 per cent stake in AO Sidanco, the fourth-largest integrated Russian oil company for $571 million. The agreement, to be signed at 10 Downing Street today, involves the purchase of shares from Unexim Bank and a further agreement to fund $172 million of the cost of developing a gasfield in east Siberia containing up to 60 trillion cubic feet in reserves.

Meanwhile, Shell announced an alliance with Gazprom, the world's largest gas producer. The Anglo-Dutch oil company agreed in Moscow yesterday to create a joint venture company to develop the Russian gas company's extensive oil reserves, which total 14.3 billion barrels. The 50/50 joint venture development company will seek to produce 25 million tonnes a year of oil and gas condensate, equal to 500,000 barrels per day.

As part of the deal, Shell has agreed to subscribe up to $1 billion in a convertible bond issued by Gazprom. The convertible issue, planned for early next year, will coincide with an issue of a further $1 billion in bonds to institutional investors, on the same terms.

Shell and Gazprom also announced that they had agreed to make a joint bid with Lukoil, the Russian oil company, for the privatisation of NK Rosneft, another Russian oil company, which has extensive reserves in northwest Siberia and stakes in two big projects, the Sakhalin-1 liquefied natural gas project and the Caspian Pipeline Consortium.

The deals heighten the competition for the privatisation of Rosneft, reckoned to be worth $1.9 billion, as BP is expected to reveal today its intention to bid jointly for the assets with its new partner Sidanco. However, Shell and Gazprom yesterday downplayed the importance of Rosneft to their new alliance.

The first Gazprom/Shell project is likely to be further development of a section of the Zapolyarnoye field in western Siberia, which Shell expects will yield reserves equivalent to Norway's Troll field, the largest gasfield in the North Sea. The partnership will also develop transportation projects, including pipelines from the Caspian region to the Black Sea and eventually into Turkey.

BP's investment with Sidanco is expected to produce a reserve addition for the UK company as it will equity account the Sidanco investment. However, the main object of the investment is the Kovyktinskoye field in eastern Siberia, near the border with China. The field is known to contain some 25 trillion cubic feet of gas but could contain as much as 60 trillion. It has yet to be developed because of the need to construct a pipeline to China.

In addition, BP can improve the production efficiency of Sidanco. The Russian company is currently operating 10,000 wells to produce a mere 420,000 barrels per day.

Tempus, page 32

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4867.0	(+125.2)
Yield	3.32%	
FTSE All share	2298.43	(+48.09)
Nikkei	16283.32	(+1200.8)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7701.55	(+129.17)*
S&P Composite	946.07	(+17.72)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	[illegible]*	[illegible]
Long Bond	[illegible]*	(100[illegible])
Yield	6.11%*	(6.09%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7[illegible]%	(7[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	117[illegible]	(117[illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6940*	(1.6930)
London:		
$	1.6[illegible]	(1.6931)
DM	2.9346	(2.9338)
FFr	9.8270	(9.8255)
SFr	2.3866	(2.3773)
Yen	212.90	(215.40)
£ Index	104.1	(104.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7325*	(1.7303)
FFr	5.8000*	(5.7850)
SFr	1.4087*	(1.4055)
Yen	125.65*	(125.40)
$ Index	106.9	(106.1)

Tokyo close Yen 125.23

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb) $19.35 ($19.90)

GOLD

London close $303.65 ($302.55)

* denotes midday trading price

UB to return £150m after asset swap with PepsiCo

By Dominic Walsh

SHARES in United Biscuits scored their biggest one-day gain yesterday after the embattled food and snacks group unveiled an asset swap with PepsiCo that will enable it to return £150 million to shareholders.

UB's shares rose 25½p to 219½p — more than 12 per cent — as it announced plans to offload underperforming snack operations in Australia and continental Europe. In return, it will take over Biscuiterie Nantaise, PepsiCo's French biscuit business, and receive a net consideration of $410 million (£240 million).

Colin Short, chairman of UB, said the deal would improve the quality of the company's earnings and enhance the return on capital employed while allowing it to return £150 million to shareholders by next July.

Mr Short said that the deal, which is subject to shareholder approval, was "a very significant development for UB". He added: "It gives us a stronger business platform from which to drive for growth in our international biscuit operations and UK food portfolio."

A spokesman confirmed that the future of UB's KP crisps business was also under review. It may be sold. However, its snacks business, which includes the Hula Hoops brand, was performing extremely well and would be retained.

The businesses UB is shedding reported combined sales last year of £264 million and profit before interest and tax of £15.9 million. They have a net asset value of £159 million, excluding goodwill previously written off of £97 million. Meanwhile, Biscuiterie Nantaise (BN) made a profit of £7.9 million from turnover of £74 million and has net assets worth £14 million.

The mechanics of the deal mean that PepsiCo is paying UB £259 million for the various snack businesses while UB is paying £18 million for BN. The European transactions are expected to be completed in the first half of 1998, but the Australian deal may take longer as it is subject to regulatory approval.

Whereas the rationalisation process of the past two years has been punctuated by a series of hefty provisions, the company said yesterday's deal would produce a "modest" exceptional profit. In addition, UB is retaining its profitable snack businesses in Malaysia, Singapore and Italy.

The exit from Australia is being seen by UB watchers as a sensible move to avoid any further damage from its battle for supremacy with PepsiCo. It entered the market in 1993, but its recent efforts to maintain its dominant position by pumping resources into marketing support have merely served to damage profitability. "The Australian business has been seriously underperforming," the spokesman admitted.

Analysts said they believed that the deal meant the company had now largely put the problems of the past five years behind it. During that period, it had suffered from a combination of a disastrous performance from its Keebler business in America, a substantial rise in raw materials costs, recession-led pricing pressure from multiple retailers and the weakness of the green pound.

Michael Landymore, food analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, said: "The management of UB now have an opportunity to demonstrate they can grow the company."

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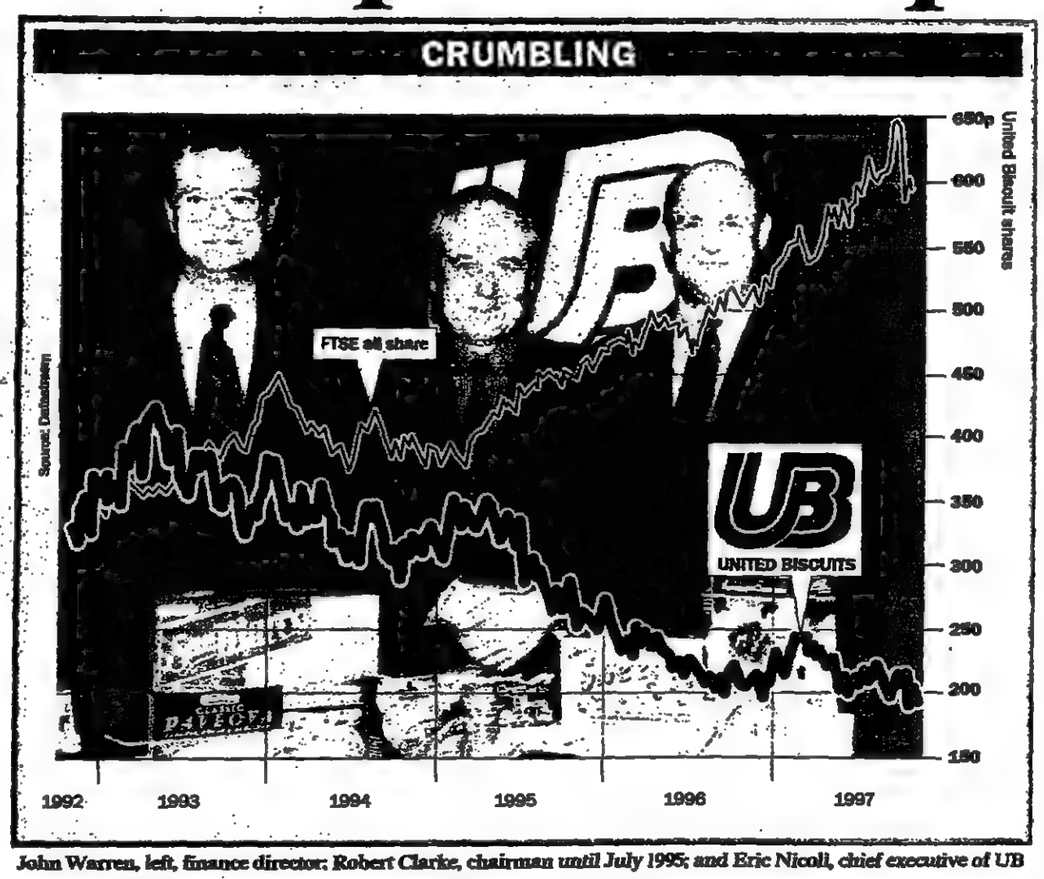

John Warren, left, finance director; Robert Clarke, chairman until July 1995; and Eric Nicoll, chief executive of UB

Short: better quality earnings

Shares soar after Far East rally

By Alasdair Murray
Economics Correspondent

THE London stock market bounced back yesterday after sharp overnight gains in Tokyo and Hong Kong helped to start a rally in global equities.

The FTSE 100 closed up 125.2 at 4,867.0 — its biggest single-day gain since the current bout of market turbulence began nearly a month ago. But volume was light at just 508.3 million and traders gave warning that investor confidence is still fragile.

London was supported by a strong showing on Wall Street where the Dow Jones industrial average recorded gains of more than 100 points in early trading after weaker than expected industrial output figures dampened expectations of interest rate rises. Investors were also cheered by an easing in US tensions with Iraq.

London shares with exposure in the Far East enjoyed the biggest gains, with HSBC closing up 61p at £14.77 and Standard Chartered up 20p at 642p, although traders expressed concern that they remain vulnerable to profit-taking in the Far East.

The Japanese market soared overnight after news that the Bank of Japan is to intervene to ensure a smooth liquidation of Hokkaido Takushoku Bank (HTB), the country's tenth largest bank.

The Nikkei index scored its fourth largest percentage gain, climbing 8 per cent, to close up 1,200.80 at 16,283.32.

Chris Carter, Japanese equity strategist at UBS, said: "The public bail-out of HTB marks a turning point for the market."

The gains in Japan helped to pull the Hong Kong market higher with investor sentiment also boosted by a fall in bank interest rates. The Hang Seng closed up 4.64 per cent at 10,419.75.

But the revival failed to lift markets in South Korea where the won crashed through the 1,000 level against the dollar after the Government told its central bank to stop defending the currency.

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Amey names Staples as new chief

BRIAN STAPLES, who was ousted as chief executive of United Utilities in July, will return to the public arena as chief executive of Amey, the construction group (Jason Nissé writes).

Mr Staples is still suing the water and electricity group for £1 million in compensation after being ousted from his £308,000-a-year post after a boardroom row in the summer. In his new post he will receive about £250,000 a year, in line with the pay of Eddie King, the current chief executive, who is retiring.

Neil Ashley, chairman of Amey, said he was unconcerned about the problem Mr Staples had at United, where he fell out with Sir Desmond Pitcher, United's chairman. "I've known Brian for 20 years and he has a very good reputation in the construction industry," said Mr Ashley.

EU to drop job targets

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

BRUSSELS looks set to be forced to abandon plans to fix ambitious specific job targets for all European Union member states.

The EU jobs summit in Luxembourg this week is now expected not to set job targets aiming at the creation of 12 million new jobs across Europe over the next five years.

Britain will see the likely abandonment of the specific employment targets proposed by the European Commission as a victory for the UK's insistence on labour market flexibility, though other EU countries like Germany have been working against the setting of particular job targets too.

Brussels originally proposed that the special EU jobs summit, which opens on Thursday, should agree job targets to bring Europe's employment rate — the proportion of the population in work — up from its current level of 60.4 per cent to levels matching that of the US.

Job growth in America has been rapid, especially compared with sluggish growth in Europe, with the much more flexible American labour market widely seen as the principal reason.

The two-stage move proposed by the Commission, firstly to an employment rate of 65 per cent in five years, and then to 70 per cent as a longer-term target, would have meant an objective of cutting the EU's current unemployment rate of 10.6 per cent down to 7 per cent with the creation of 12 million jobs.

But EU member states, including Britain, are now convinced that the Commission will be unable to win sufficient backing for the idea of specific targets at the summit.

Photo-Me sues Swiss rival after price war

PHOTO-ME INTERNATIONAL, the world's largest photo booth operator, is suing a rival Swiss company for SFr200 million (£84 million) as part of a battle for domination of the passport photograph business (Jason Nissé writes).

A writ has been lodged in Lausanne alleging breach of agreement by the Swiss photographic company, Fotolabo, and its director, Marco Forster. If successful, the action could be worth more than five years of taxable profits to Photo-Me.

The dispute centres on Fotolabo's purchase of Prontophot Holdings in January last year. This unleashed a bitter price war in the photo booth market, which has severely affected Photo-Me. The group has issued a series of profits warnings and its directors hinted recently that they may take the group private unless its share price improves.

British Steel warning

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH STEEL yesterday gave warning that the strength of the pound could trigger recession if the Government did not help exporters.

Brian Moffat, chairman, said exporters could not go on making little or no money. "It's not going to be all that long before we see some sort of downturn in the UK." His warning came as British Steel, which heavily depends on exports linked to the mark, saw pre-tax profits slump to £143 million from £262 million for the six months to September 30.

But increased orders and an upturn in the price of steel meant that the figures were better than the City had expected and the share price edged up 5p to 150p. In September the shares hit a 12-month high of 190p. British Steel raised its volumes by 4 per cent in the half year. Mr Moffat said: "Our commercial teams secured record order levels so that all our major UK plants worked at or close to capacity and we continue to operate profitably."

In the six months to September 30, British Steel cut 500 jobs. It also said that the flatter management structure would "result in more rapid decision-making and progressive operating efficiencies".

Its profits have also been hit by spending on three new plants. Although the company is to put on ice a £500 million development in Indonesia because of the turmoil in the Far East economies, it is still looking out for acquisitions.

The interim dividend, payable on January 12, was held at 3p.

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Holt Lloyd sold to Americans

Holt Lloyd, the UK car care products company, has been sold by Electra Fleming to Prestone, a subsidiary of AlliedSignal of America, for $155 million (£91.6 million).

Electra acquired Holt for £60 million in 1994. Since then Holt Lloyd has developed its own brands, repaid over £12 million of debt, and exchanged contracts to acquire the Simoniz car care business in January 1998.

Brooke goes

Richard Brooke has resigned as group finance director of British Sky Broadcasting. He will become managing director of St James's Investment Partnership.

Workplace up

Workplace Group, the property company, lifted net assets to 470p (417p) a share in the year to September 30. Pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £2.5 million. The dividend is up 11 per cent to 4.5p.

Dividend rise

Adam & Harvey, the distribution and steel stockholding group, is lifting the dividend to 13.5p a share (12.25p) although pre-tax profits fell to £2.48 million (£2.55 million) in the half year to September 30.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.52	2.34
Austria Sch	11.64	10.96
Belgium Fr	63.66	58.70
Canada $	2.515	2.327
Cyprus Cyp£	0.903	0.832
Denmark Kr	11.75	10.86
Finland Mkk	9.37	8.62
France Fr	10.38	9.60
Germany Dm	3.10	2.86
Greece Dr	496	447
Hong Kong $	13.69	12.69
Iceland	121	101
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.03
Israel Shk	6.54	5.69
Italy Lira	3043	2806
Japan Yen	227.43	209.90
Malta	0.662	0.623
Netherlds Gld	3.458	3.201
New Zealand $	2.84	2.51
Norway Kr	12.89	11.66
Portugal Esc	311.53	289.60
S Africa Rd	8.90	7.04
Spain Pta	258.78	240.00
Sweden Kr	11.53	10.49
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.32
Turkey Lira	325780	309982
USA $	1.796	1.663

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Unigate poised to capitalise on consolidation of dairy industry

By Paul Durman

UNIGATE, the milk company behind St Ivel spreads and yoghurts, is still not making enough profit on selling milk to supermarkets and believes a shake-out is needed in the dairy industry.

Sir Ross Buckland, chief executive, said he is confident the industry will undergo a significant structural change before the end of next year, in spite of difficulties involved in combining existing milk suppliers. With net cash of £169.2 million at the end of September, Unigate is well placed to take out the weaker or uncommitted businesses.

The company gave few clues about how it expects industry consolidation to take place, although Ian Martin, chairman, said: "Underneath the water, there's a hell of a lot of activity taking place."

Unigate increased its sales of milk to supermarkets by 3.5 per cent in the six months to September, but margins fell because it had to accept lower prices. However, the fall in the price of raw milk enabled the dairy division to lift its profit by 11 per cent to £19.5 million on sales marginally higher at £19.5 million.

Doorstep deliveries produced an improved profit, although the volume of sales continued to contract rapidly.

With a £5 million improvement in profits from its fresh foods business, Unigate was able to increase the group's interim pre-tax profits by 11 per cent to £67.4 million. This year's total included a £1 million profit on the sale of surplus dairy properties. Turnover rose 3 per cent to £1.18 billion. Unigate said it had made excellent progress and expects this to be "another year of profitable growth".

The fresh food operation, which includes the Malton Foods ham and bacon business, increased profits to £31.5 million on sales of £635 million. At St Ivel, the relaunch of the Shape range of yoghurts produced a 25 per cent increase in the volume of sales. Last year's acquisition of Vitalite and Golden Churn increased the volume of spread sales by 34 per cent.

The profit recovery at Malton Foods was helped by lower pigmeat costs and strong sales of cooked meats.

Wincanton Logistics, the warehousing and distribution business, made £12.6 million (£12.3 million), held back by problems in the petroleum and chemicals markets.

An interim dividend of 7.5p (7p) a share will be paid on January 5.

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FirstBus planning £150m expansion

By Chris Ayres

FIRSTBUS, the UK's biggest bus operator, is planning to spend up to £150 million over the 12 twelve months to boost its market share to 25 per cent and expand its interests in railways and airports.

The company, which is chaired by Trevor Smallwood, is being renamed FirstGroup as part of the expansion. It currently controls 22 per cent of the UK bus market. It operates Great Eastern Railway, holds a stake in Great Western Trains and is the preferred bidder for 51 per cent of Bristol International Airport.

Moir Lockhead, the chief executive, said: "We have a facility of £150 million and if the opportunities are there we will spend it. I think we can expand our share of the bus market by 3 per cent before the Office of Fair Trading has another look." Mr Lockhead said that securing priority routes for buses — plus greater awareness of the dangers of drink-driving — had helped to attract new customers.

The company also declared an interest in running a London Underground franchise if the Government introduces a privatisation programme. "There appears to be a backlog of work and we would have to establish how much that would cost," Mr Lockhead said.

Yesterday, FirstBus reported a 28 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30, from £23.5 million to £30 million, on turnover of £363.4 million, up 47 per cent from £246.8 million. Basic earnings per share were 7.3p, down 22 per cent from 9.4p. A dividend of 2.2p (1.8p) is due on February 18.

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PETER TREVNOR

Moir Lockhead, left, and Trevor Smallwood yesterday

Southern Electric agrees to cuts

By Christine Buckley

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC, the last independent regional electricity company, yesterday attacked price controls which will cut bills by an average 9 per cent — or £23 — over the next two years but agreed to abide by the regulator's curbs.

Its acceptance follows a similar agreement by Eastern, part of The Energy Group, last week and signals a likely endorsement by the whole industry. In the summer regional companies indicated that they could seek referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in a clash with Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, over the controls which are intended to protect prices once competition starts in household electricity. A phased introduction of competition starts next April.

Southern complained that the two-year price restraint unfairly penalised companies that had reduced their cost base and which had passed on benefits to customers. But the company said it would not challenge the price controls on the supply element of an electricity bill because it would not be in shareholders' interests.

The regulator ordered price cuts from regional electricity companies in order to ensure that once competition began in the domestic markets they were not able to lift prices.

Kvaerner rises despite Cunard loss

By George Sivell

CUNARD, the QE2 cruise line acquired by Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering group, as part of the Trafalgar House deal, has clocked up more losses but its owners believe it could break even next year.

Cunard remains up for sale, either to a company that wants to take a big shareholding or to an outright buyer but in spite of talks with numerous cruise companies no deal appears imminent. The Norwegians say they will continue to support Cunard and they have repositioned the brand at the top end of the market.

Cunard's headquarters are to be moved from New York to Miami next month, with the transfer of 350 staff. In spite of Cunard losses Kvaerner pre-tax profits rose from 851 million Norwegian crowns to Nkr903 million (£76 million) in the nine months to September 30.

The rise came in spite of a sharp increase in interest charges from Nkr441 million to Nkr879 million associated with the Trafalgar acquisition. Earnings rose from NKr14.17 a share to Nkr14.87.

The pre-tax profit includes Nkr557 million (Nkr851 million) in gains on the sale of assets. Erik Tonseth, president and chief executive, said: "The underlying group performance continues to improve, although the result in the oil and gas business area especially is not currently satisfactory." Sales rose about 30 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Royal Bank and C&G lift mortgage rates

THOUSANDS more borrowers face higher mortgage repayments before Christmas, as two more lenders raised their variable rates in response to the bank base increase earlier this month. Cheltenham & Gloucester, a division of Lloyds TSB, and Royal Bank of Scotland both increased their standard variable rates by 0.25 per cent to 8.70 per cent.

The new rates are effective from December 1 for existing customers. However, the Halifax, the largest lender, yesterday said that it would await the outcome of the next Bank of England interest rate meeting before changing its variable rate. The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee meets again on December 3 and December 4, sparing the Halifax's borrowers a rate rise before Christmas.

ICI Australia renamed

ICI AUSTRALIA is changing its name to Orica, after its separation from ICI, its British former parent company, earlier this year. The company said: "Research on the chosen name Orica indicated that people felt the name evoked words such as the future, knowledge, expertise and technology, all of which were considered positive attributes." The new name will be put to shareholders for approval at the December 12 annual meeting, and is proposed to take effect next year.

Oriflame confirms link

ORIFLAME INTERNATIONAL, confirmed that it wants to merge with Oresa, its Eastern European offshoot. The merger is to be through a share exchange of six new Oriflame shares for each Oresa share. Both Oriflame and Oresa sell cosmetic products directly to customers. Oresa had turnover of £147 million and pre-tax profit of £29 million for the year to December 31, 1996. Oriflame predicted that the enlarged group's profit for the year to December 31, 1997, will not be less than £39 million.

Morris plans to float

MORRIS GROUP, the privately owned housebuilder based in northwest England, plans to seek a stock market listing this year, it was confirmed yesterday. The company is expected to raise £10 million via a share placing, equivalent to up to 40 per cent of the enlarged equity. In the year to March 31, Morris made an operating profit of £3 million on turnover of £28.1 million and completed 304 houses for sale. Its landbank stands at more than five years at current usage.

Diploma payout held

DIPLOMA, the industrial distribution company, is holding the total dividend at 14.5p a share, with an unchanged 10p final, after a fall in pre-tax profits to £21.6 million from £23.5 million in the year to September 30. The decline came in spite of increased turnover of £258 million (£235 million). Earnings fell to 24.8p from 27p. The company said its key markets of electronics, building and industrial and special steels suffered adverse trading conditions. The shares fell 18p to 235½p.

Whitecroft profits dip

PROFITS at Whitecroft, the lighting and building products company, fell to £2.3 million from £2.7 million in the half year to September 30, a period of extensive restructuring within the group. The company reported earnings per share of 3.7p, down from 4.4p. The interim dividend is held at 1.75p per share. The company said trading profits were slightly higher at £3.28 million, against £3.11 million, in spite of disruption from operational changes.

Ayling takes the cut-price route

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Someone at British Airways has noticed that not all travelling businessmen have open-ended expense accounts and an extraordinary preoccupation with food. The rapid growth of cut-price flight operators has not merely been fuelled by students who have saved a few pounds and are anxious to explore the world. Almost half the customers who have been taking advantage of the cheap fares now on offer are business people who appreciate the savings they can make by bypassing the major airlines and heading for EasyJet or Devonair.

While the national carriers have been obsessed with image, customers have become increasingly price conscious. While there may be some big-spenders who will take note of the gaudy new BA tail fins and book their ticket accordingly — Lady Thatcher, presumably, boycotting BA unless it will incorporate her novel handkerchief design — many more are likely to be influenced by the chance to reach their destination at a fraction of the normal price.

Robert Ayling, BA's determined chief executive, would be foolish not to try to provide transport for those customers as well as the ones who are more interested in collecting little foil-wrapped packets of peanuts. Having taken on the unions this summer, in one of the nastier, and most important, industrial disputes to be seen for several years, he is now ready to attack the upstart infiltrators of the airline industry.

Operation Blue Sky will start small but has the potential to become an important part of the company. Ayling is structuring BA for the next century, as he made clear when he did battle with the cabin staff, a sickly bunch, according to the doctors who so conveniently provided medical get outs for their absence from work. Joining forces with American Airlines is a strategic plank in his planning and he is fighting the regulatory hurdles that seek to prevent the link.

But he is clearly plotting a framework which should ensure that BA is equipped to cope with the changing demands for air travel. Apart from the new, no frills, airline, there is also the joint venture with Flying Colours, which uses BA pilots but cabin crew from the holiday company to cater to those on jaunts to exotic destinations.

Ayling is at pains to insist that he is not aiming to turn BA into a virtual airline, with everything outsourced, although his summer bust-up must have made him ponder the delights of having the barest minimum of employees to call his own. Nonetheless, he is clearly prepared to take a radical look at what a modern airline operators should be, and that goes well beyond throwing off the Union Jack.

Bank failure that spells good news

The surge in the Japanese stock market on news that a bank has been closed down seems to be a particularly perverse instance of laughing in the face of adversity. But the fact that the Japanese authorities have allowed a bank to fail is actually good news. Just how good will depend on whether this development was simply a sop to American pressure or whether it is the start of a genuine, and long overdue, attempt to clear up Japan's financial system.

It is no coincidence that Hokkaido Takushoku Bank was wound up on the day that Larry Summers, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary, was in Tokyo. America has been putting intense pressure on Japan and other countries in the region to get their banking houses in order and start on the road to restoring investor confidence. However, the structure of the deal suggests that there is still no political will in Japan to put up taxpayers' money to pay for bailing out banks.

Hokuyo Bank took over Hokkaido Takushoku Bank on government orders. Its bad debt was transferred to the Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Bank of Japan provided special loans. In effect, the central bank printed yen to bail out a bank rather than acknowledge the awful truth.

Japan's record of cleaning up its banking mess has been extremely poor. It was obvious two years ago that radical action would have to be taken but, after two years of officialdom indulging in every imaginable trick and backroom deal to hide the problem and keep banks afloat for appearances' sake, bad loans still amount to an estimated $150 billion (£94 million). That is equivalent to more than 3 per cent of Japanese gross domestic product, a burden greater than the cost to America of bailing-out its savings and loan industry.

This time procrastination simply will not do. If bad loans are not tackled publicly and aggressively, the Nikkei will soon slump again. Yesterday's rally took the index to just over 16,000. Many analysts think that, at below 15,000, many Japanese banks would be technically insolvent. Japan is in danger of haemorrhaging. A sticking plaster won't work.

Still a sorry tale by man from the Pru

November 16 has apparently been designated National Apology Day. A new range of greetings cards will be ready in time for this very special day next year, some with multiple choice messages, enabling the sender to say sorry for a particular slip with just the tick of a box.

Tony Blair and Sir Peter Davis took to the television screens to launch the day, which will give card manufacturers a useful fill-in between Halloween and Christmas. But please accept my apologies in advance if I sound a little sceptical about the chorus of *mea culpas*. Sir Peter's apology has been too long coming to be entirely convincing. He may be "very sorry" now about the hurt occasioned by the Prudential's mis-selling of personal pensions but the victims would have appreciated it if he had been penitent at an earlier stage. Then he might have taken responsibility for ensuring that sufficient muscle was put into righting the wrongs quickly instead of at the laggardly pace that has ensued.

If Sir Peter is truly remorseful, then he will want to guard against the Pru ever misleading its customers again. This will require something rather more permanent than a television interview. The whole ethos of the Pru's sales operation needs to be re-examined. If Sir Peter wishes to be on the side of the angels, and not merely in his TV commercials, this is the issue he must address.

Grinding away

GARRY WESTON has waited since 1991 to make his next major bid after taking over British Sugar, so presumably he will not mind waiting a while longer. Which is just as well: his wish to buy Dalgety's milling business needs Office of Fair Trading approval. Even if the superficial monopoly problem is pushed aside, Dalgety shareholders should not get too excited. Mr Weston spends ABF money with all the frugality that he spends his own.

Emap pays £100m for Macmillan magazines

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

EMAP, the magazine, radio and exhibitions group, yesterday entered the health publishing market with the £100 million purchase of Macmillan titles such as *Nursing Times* and *Health Service Journal*.

Robin Miller, the Emap chief executive, said yesterday that healthcare was a huge and growing market and Emap intended to develop the Macmillan health services division by launching new titles, expanding exhibitions and conferences and creating new electronic products.

Emap also announced a 27 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £64.5 million for the six months to September 30, boosted by strong growth in consumer advertising combined with falling paper prices.

Emap is paying £85 million for the Macmillan business plus £17.3 million linked to first-year performance. Operating profit in 1996 was £8.4 million on sales of £27.7 million, a margin of 30 per cent. Macmillan, the publisher, said it decided to sell to concentrate on the more international side of its business — science, general publishing and English language teaching.

Emap also confirmed its general interest in IPC magazines, put up for sale by Reed Elsevier. Mr Miller emphasised his wish to see formal bank documents on the sale, due to be available at the end of this month, before deciding whether to bid.

Mr Miller said the past six months had been "a unique period" for consumer publishing, with a 4 per cent increase in copy sales and a 20 per cent increase in consumer advertising on a like-for-like basis, while paper costs had fallen more than 20 per cent. Operating profit from publishing rose 42 per cent to £28.3 million.

Turnover on continuing businesses rose 4 per cent to £376 million, adjusted earnings per share were up by 28 per cent to 20.4p and the dividend goes up 15 per cent to 4.95p. Analysts are looking for about £140 million pre-tax profit for the full year. Emap shares rose 5p to 906½p.

John Rudgard intends to devote his energies to "a couple of business start-ups"

Early departure for Bulmer chief

By Dominic Walsh

JOHN RUDGARD, chief executive of HP Bulmer Holdings, surprised the City yesterday by announcing his intention to step down in April after 33 years with the cidermaker.

Mr Rudgard, who has held the post of chief executive for ten years, is to be succeeded by Michael Hughes, former managing director of Guinness Brewing Great Britain and a former UK marketing director for Coca-Cola. Mr Hughes, 47, will join Bulmer in January.

Esmond Bulmer, chairman, said that Mr Rudgard had made "a great contribution" during his career with the company and emphasised that his departure two years early was at his own request. Mr Rudgard, who is 58 in March, said: "In a sense my work is complete. The company is in great shape and while the market isn't great at the moment, it will come back." The company's shares, unchanged at 420p yesterday, have lost more than 200p since the spring.

He said he intends to devote his energies to his other business interests, including "a couple of business start-ups". Earlier this month he was appointed as a non-executive director of Wyko Group, the industrial services provider, and will soon take on a second non-executive role with an unnamed company.

LCR upbeat over future of rail link after review

By Jon Ashworth

LONDON & Continental Railways (LCR) has issued an upbeat statement about the future of the £3 billion high-speed Channel Tunnel rail link, but it gave warning about slower than expected growth at Eurostar, its train-operating subsidiary.

Confirming plans to float on the stock market about the middle of next year, LCR said that a wide-ranging business review had confirmed the long-term viability of its business. The 68-mile high-speed link remains on budget and on schedule, with completion due towards the end of 2003. The eight-strong LCR consortium said it was in discussions with seven potential partners whose participation might benefit the physical operation of the project or its financing.

There has been speculation that the link might stop near the M25 motorway because of the huge costs of the project, which includes six miles of tunnelling from Barking to Islington. LCR, said the rail link would be built in a single operation, including the terminus at St Pancras. The preferred contractors for £500 million of tunnelling work will be named by Christmas.

Adam Mills, LCR's chief executive, said: "The process of reappraisal and evaluation has confirmed the long-term viability of LCR's overall business."

The rate of growth in Eurostar passenger numbers is likely to be less rapid in the short term than was anticipated at the time of the LCR bid in 1995. Longer term, the business is deemed financially robust. Eurostar passenger numbers grew 20 per cent in the first nine months of 1997.

ABF seeks to buy Spillers

ASSOCIATED British Foods is seeking clearance from the Office of Fair Trading to acquire the Spillers milling business from Dalgety (See Commentary, this page).

Analysts said they were far from certain whether ABF would be allowed to do the deal. ABF already owns the flour producer Allied Mills in Britain, and the City believes that buying Spillers Milling would take the group over the limits on British ownership unless the grouping were considered an international commodity operation not subject to domestic regulation.

Spillers was put on sale in September with the rest of Dalgety's food ingredients business when Dalgety announced a £300 million corporate restructuring. The deadline for first bids is tomorrow evening.

Bupa may lift bid for Care First

By Paul Durman

BUPA, the healthcare and hospitals group, yesterday signalled that it may be prepared to raise its £241 million offer for Care First, the nursing homes company.

The emergence of two rival bidders over the weekend prompted Bupa to emphasise that its 150p-a-share offer is not final. This gives it scope for an increase if that proves necessary.

EM Warburg Pincus, the American investment firm, yesterday confirmed that it is working on a possible offer with Merrill Lynch International, the investment bank. Chai Patel, until recently Care First's chief executive, is also said to be planning a bid with backing from a rival team of financiers.

Bupa did not expect to be drawn into an auction when it made its offer last week. It has continued discussions with Care First's board in the hope of securing a recommendation, possibly for a modestly improved offer.

Care First shares yesterday closed 5p up at 158½p.

Sinclair moves on Premiere

SHARES in Sinclair Montrose, the healthcare group, lost nearly a quarter of their value yesterday as it announced plans to take over Premiere Group, a small employment agency that floated 18 months ago. Sinclair Montrose shares fell from 242p to 185p (Paul Durman writes).

The company, which runs businesses helping hospitals with their staffing needs, will finance at least half the purchase price by issuing new shares at the rate of 22 for every 20 in Premiere.

The share price fall cut the paper value of the deal from £10.5 million to about £8 million. Premiere's shareholders will be able to exchange up to half their holdings for about 268p a share in cash. Premiere's shares stood at 172½p before it announced a possible bid approach last month.

It is only three months since Sinclair, listed on the Alternative Investment Market, issued £6.6 million of shares to fund the roll-out of a chain of medical centres.

هكذا من الاصل

STOCK MARKET

FRASER NELSON

Companies hit by Asian turmoil lead recovery

CITY traders were unconvinced by the sharp rises in Far Eastern stock markets yesterday as shares were marked higher but dealing-room activity remained low.

The sharpest rise in Japan's Nikkei 225 for seven years could not fail to prompt a domino effect in London and Wall Street. But just like the crash last month, marketmakers held fire to be sure that it was for real. And at the close of trading, no one was any surer.

The banks, together with companies that have been hardest hit by the Asian stock collapse, led the recovery in the FTSE 100, which closed up 125.2 points at 4867.0.

Apart from watching the FTSE 100 rise with bemused disbelief, talk of a merger between **Barclays Bank**, up 30p at £14.90, and **NatWest Bank**, up 15½p at 870½, kept traders amused before Wall Street opened. A possible link-up is being seen as fanciful, but the news helped to pep up a sector still trying to recover from last month's crash.

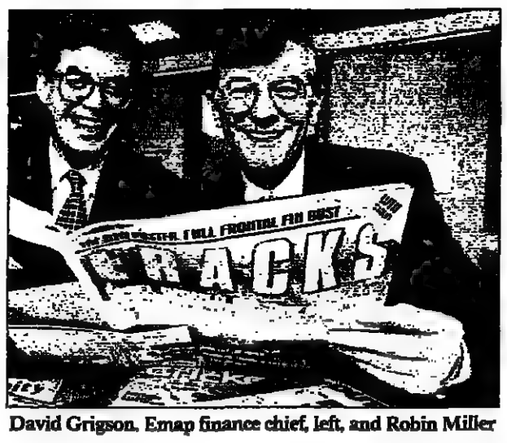
Abbey National rose to 960p on news that Safeway, up 2½p at 401p, was planning to open another one of its in-store banks that Abbey is helping develop. **Lloyds TSB**, which owns Cheltenham & Gloucester, was 24p higher at 723p after being the latest to raise its mortgage rates by a quarter point.

Analysts are soon to take a trip to the headquarters of **HSBC**, up 59p to 1405p, on hope that they will come back thinking its shares have suffered enough. This anticipation trickled down to **Standard Chartered**, 20p better at 642p.

United Biscuits won loud applause for its asset-swap with PepsiCo, which will see £150 million returned to shareholders. The shares leapt 25½p to 219½p, becoming the strongest performers in the FTSE 250.

Lasmo added 3p to 281p, amid talk of further positive comment from NatWest. **Fleming Japan**, up 9¼p to 138¼p, became one of the sharpest movers in the FTSE 250 — a direct result of the surge in the Nikkei.

Although **Schroders** was billed as the sharpest FTSE 100 mover, up 103p to £15.31 the rise was exaggerated by liquidity shortages. The shares are still 8 per cent off their high. BAA was up 7p to 501p after going ex-dividend. It was helped by news of a low-budget air flight service introduced by **British Airways**, up 17p to 567p, and also ex-dividend. BA is planning to use BAA's Stanstead airport.



David Grigson, Emap finance chief, left, and Robin Miller

Anticipation of today's results from **Vodafone Group** lifted its shares up 10½p to 357p after Lehman Brothers forecast a 400p share close by the end of next year. A change of heart from Société Générale helped shares in **BSkyB** rise 21p to 424p as the broker switched to a "buy" recommendation.

Granada Group strengthened by 10p, to 800p, on word that it has ahcieved good value from the disposal of its French motorway services division — a move first disclosed in this column last month.

Rumours of further takeover activity amongst car dealers buoyed shares in **Ryland** by 9½p to an eight-month high of 100p. However, none of its shares changes hands.

Dalgety was also in demand, gaining 6p to 247½, on news that **Associated British Foods**, up 3p at 543p, is seeking clearance to buy its Spillers milling business.

Shares in **Emap**, of which Robin Miller is chief executive, rose 5p to 906½p after the publisher announced the £102 million acquisition of the health services division of Macmillan Magazines.

British Biotech was at the centre of speculation that it might make a controversial US link-up. Although details were thin and sources unclear, its shares still gained 4½p to 105½p The slide in sterling, down 0.22 cents at $1.6925, helped **RMC Group** to rise 32p to 934p.

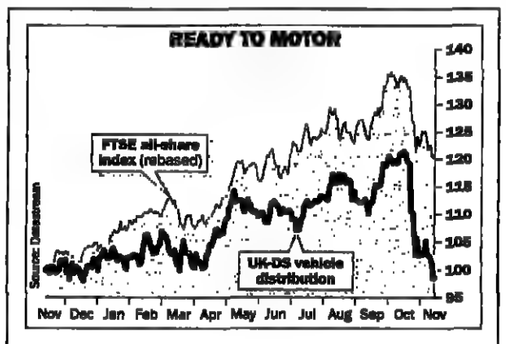
Sell tips in the weekend press took their toll on **Manchester United**, down 5p at 642½, **Loftus Road**, off 5p at 30½p and **Zetters**, down 1½p at 122p.

On the Alternative Investment Market, **Sinclair Montrose** fell 57p to 186p after it launched an agreed bid to boost its employment arm with a £10.7 million bid for **Premiere Group**. **Majestic Wine** rose 4p to a new high of 309½p before results next week — marking a 50 per cent advance since its shares joined the AIM at 204½p last year. **Total Office**, whose shares have been in freefall from 130p after a profits warning last month, began to pick up again, adding 1½p to 86p. Dealers said that the drop has been way overdone and there would be further recovery.

Minorplant Systems joined the junior exchange today, but dropped 12½p from its 65p flotation price. Meanwhile, **Dean Corp** enjoyed its last day on the junior exchange steady at 14p. It joins the full list today.

☐ **Gilt-edged:** It was another dull day in the futures pit, with trading at about half of the normal daily activity. The Liffe gilt future for the month of December was up three notches at 117²¹⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street stocks remained strong at midday, with the Dow Jones industrial average up 129.17 points at 7,701.65, boosted by a rally in Toyko on optimism about government support for the banking sector.



AFTER a summer of consolidation, life has slipped back into the slow lane for Britain's car dealers. Interest rate rises promise to make car loans more expensive; the continuing rise of sterling will make prices increase with the disposable income of potential purchasers.

Manufacturers have also been playing hardball to the extent that the average operating margin was below 3 per cent. But do these factors deserve to leave more than 50 per cent of quoted car dealers with shares sitting on half the average p/e ratios achieved elsewhere in the market? Takeover rumours are already lifting shares of Ryland. Although it is difficult to see which UK companies have still got cash to spend, overseas rivals may step in.

Analysts are saying that manufacturers must loosen their grip on dealers or watch them go out of business. As the consolidation sets in, dealers will be able to command better deals.

The best of the takeovers may be over, but the sector is unlikely to sink much further than this.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	7701.65 (+129.17)
S&P Composite	946.07 (+17.72)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	16283.32 (+1200.80)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	10419.75 (+462.42)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index	877.03 (+24.98)

Sydney:

AO	2487.7 (+8.6)

Frankfurt:

DAX	3794.61 (+63.67)

Singapore:

Straits	1698.65 (-1.61)

Brussels:

General	13490.46 (+247.02)

Paris:

CAC-40	2772.99 (+76.95)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1154.90 (+18.10)

London:

FT 30	3162.8 (+69.3)
FTSE 100	4867.0 (+125.2)
FTSE 250	4625.8 (+39.3)
FTSE 350	2349.4 (+52.5)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2495.63 (+23.41)
FTSE All-Share	2299.43 (+48.09)
FTSE Non Financials	[illegible]
FTSE Fixed Interest	130.58 (-0.64)
FTSE Govt Secs	99.42 (same)
Bargains	55207
SEAQ Volume	585.1m
US$	1.6925 (-0.0022)
German Mark	2.9341 (+0.0007)
Exchange Index	104.1 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4866
£:SDR	1.2367
RPI	159.5 Oct (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	157.9 Oct (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mngmt Zero	100¼	...
BCH Group	202½	...
BG 'B'	29¼	...
Buckland Inv Wts	10	....
Buckland Inv	17½	...
Cresco International	153½	...
Foresight Tech Wts	5¼	...
Foresight Tech	100	...
Gyrus Group	147½	...
Holmes Place	182½	+ 11½
Latchways (155)	172	+ 7
Metalsrussia	86½	...
Minorplanet Systems	52½	...
NSB Retail Sys	181½	+ 1
Newsquest (250)	238½	...
Northern Recrutmnt	123½	- ½
Nottingham Frst (70)	57½	- ½
SHL Group	262½	- 1½
Workplace Tech	207½	- 2½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Azlan n/p (37)	26	- ¼
Meyer Int n/p (360)	12	+ 6½
Recognitn Sys n/p (21)	1¼	- ¼

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

BBB Design	67½p (+10p)
CPL Aromas	100p (+10p)
Ryland	100p (+9½p)
Racal Elect	214½p (+13p)
Schroders	1687p (+87p)
Colt Telecom	595½p (+27p)
AEA Tech	457½p (+20p)
Sage Group	780p (+33p)
Rentokil	238p (+10p)
GKN	1282p (+52p)
MAM	1287p (+51p)
Wolseley	515p (+20p)
Glaxo Wellcome	1257p (+47p)
Watson & Philip	476p (+17p)
AB Food	559p (+19p)
Lloyds TSB	723p (+24p)
Stagecoach	841p (+27½p)

FALLS:

Liberty	345p (-30p)
Celltech	305p (-15p)
MAID	194p (-9½p)
Adam & Harvey	330p (-10p)
Eurotherm	388½p (-8p)
Photobition	762½p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Prospect in the East

WHAT better measure of the importance of the Russian oil and gas industry than the sight of Shell and BP investing the best part of $2 billion just for the right to sit at the table. Russia has some 49 billion barrels of proven oil reserves and as much as twice that in exploration potential. The problem in Russia is less of finding oil than of producing it efficiently. For BP and Shell, both flush with funds and knowhow but lacking projects, the partnerships are made in heaven.

The money both companies are paying is tantamount to an introduction fee — Shell could end up with a mere 2 per cent in Gazprom, although BP may be able to equity account some reserves. The rationale is that the partners can open the door to colossal oil and gas reserves — in the case of Sidanco, the Kovyktinskoye field in Eastern Siberia, reckoned to have 25 to 60 trillion cubic feet of gas and aimed at the Chinese market. Gazprom also offers Shell the immediate prospect of a joint venture development of Zapolyarnoye, another huge oil and gasfield.

The link between Gazprom and Shell goes beyond upstream projects. Gazprom, the largest gas company in the world, is seeking to penetrate markets downstream in Western Europe. Through partnering Gazprom, Shell can boast not only its North Sea reserves and a stake in the vast Groningen gasfield in The Netherlands, but some measure of influence over Europe's largest gas importer. Such a partnership could play a strategic role in gas supply across the Continent. It is early days, but the alliance could become as important a deal for Shell as the original link-up between Shell Transport and Royal Dutch Petroleum.

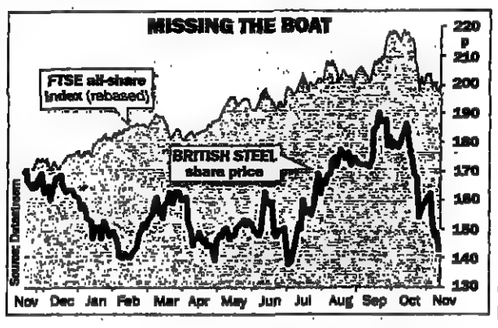
British Steel

FORECASTING British Steel's profits is more about the sterling-mark exchange rate than its strength as a steelmaker. Commodities are always a hostage to external forces, such as weather or currency, but British Steel is being hung, drawn and quartered on the strength of the pound.

The situation is all the more depressing, because steel is enjoying a cyclical upturn and better selling prices. While steel demand in Europe grew by 7 per cent and UK consumption was up 5 per cent, British Steel's profits were halved, with revenues falling 11 per cent.

The pressure is unlikely to lessen because the Far East is an important customer. The financial turmoil in Asia will inevitably weaken the UK's attraction as a steel supplier against local rivals. Moreover, there must be doubts over the future of steel demand in that region. Property prices are already falling, a sure signal that construction starts will begin to tail off.

The slimmed-down, cost-cutting, conservative British Steel is getting no reward for good behaviour and there must be doubts about its home-grown strategy. Without local production in foreign markets, it must export. However, it cannot hope to compete with its costs measured in pricey pounds. Even on optimistic assumptions of earnings per share of 10p the shares are priced on a heady multiple of 15. They have far to fall.



United Biscuits

IT IS a measure of the lean times suffered by UB shareholders in recent years that yesterday's deal with PepsiCo should have sparked the biggest one-day share price rise.

Selling underperforming businesses and investing in strong ones is hardly rocket science, but yesterday's asset swap did achieve both, and the return of a chunk of the proceeds to shareholders was the icing on the cake.

The problem for UB over the past two years has been that the sorting-out process has proved costly, prompting a host of provisions. The latest deal, *mirabile dictu*, will produce a "modest" extraordinary gain.

The rationale cannot be faulted. In return for a clutch of underperforming snack businesses centred on France and Belgium, UB is getting a profitable and growing biscuitmaker that will reinforce its market share.

In Australia, the scenario is different. The two businesses have a combined market share of more than 50 per cent putting UB head-to-head with PepsiCo. Heavy investment has preserved UB's market share but at the expense of profits, making a sale to PepsiCo the obvious move.

City wags suggest that the moment you feel like buying UB, you should go and lie down. But if management can now demonstrate an ability to grow the company the time for a nap may fast be approaching.

Unigate

UNIGATE has done well in difficult markets over the last few years, hugely outperforming its great rival, Northern Foods. The latest results were at the top end of expectations, with good progress from fresh food and the smaller but attention-grabbing dairy business.

Like other dairy companies, Unigate has been fighting battles on three fronts: Milk Marque's baleful influence over raw milk pricing, the rapid decline in doorstep deliveries, and the ruthlessness of the supermarkets' buyers. Unigate is now reaping the rewards of the recent cuts in raw milk prices, and it has learnt to live with the loss of doorstep business, which still continues. That leaves the supermarkets, and Unigate is pinning its hopes on consolidation among rival suppliers. The reduced raw milk prices may defer some of the tough decisions that need to be taken, but Unigate's large cash pile should leave it well placed to emerge a winner from this shakeout.

The company is still investing heavily in its food side - including greatly increased advertising of last year's acquisition of the Vitalite and Golden Churn spreads. Worth holding.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
118¼	113⁷⁄₁₆	Treas 4⅝% 1998	116		3.98	6.38
103¼	100¹¹⁄₃₂	Exch 9¾% 1998	100²⁷⁄₃₂	-⅛	9.72	7.19
101⅞	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.26
110⅜	103¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas 14% 1998-01	103⁹⁄₁₆		13.56	7.28
114⅜	106¹⁹⁄₃₂	Treas 15½% 1998	[illegible]		14.52	7.32
109⅜	104¹⁄₁₆	Exch 12% 1998	104¹⁄₁₆		11.49	7.34
105⅝	102⅝	Treas 9½% 1999	102⅝	-⅛	9.28	7.28
111⅛	106⅛	Exch 12¼% 1999	106⅛		11.02	7.25
108⅝	[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	104⅝	+⅛	10.03	7.20
99⅝	[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	98⅛	+⅛	6.11	7.09
105⅝	103¾	Conv 10¼% 1999	105	+⅛	9.78	7.20
103⅛	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	[illegible]	+⅛	8.67	7.09
104¹¹⁄₁₆	102⅜	Treas 8% 2000	102⁹⁄₁₆	+⅛	7.80	7.04
104⅝	102⅝	Treas 8½% 2000	[illegible]	+⅛	8.28	7.23
119⅞	113⅛	Treas 13% 2000	113⅝	+⅛	11.42	7.16
112⅜	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	[illegible]	+⅛	9.23	7.06
101¹³⁄₁₆	98⅞	Treas 7% 2001	100⅛	+⅛	6.98	6.93

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
102¹⁵⁄₁₆	97⅝	Treas 7% 2002	100⅝	+⅛	6.95	7.05
122⅛	109½	Treas 9¾% 2002	111⅝	+⅛	8.76	6.90
107⅝	102⅝	Treas 8% 2003	105⅝	+⅛	7.59	6.82
117⅛	111⅛	Treas 10% 2003	114⅝	+⅛	8.70	6.84
116⅝	112⅛	Treas 11½% 2001-04	112⅝	+⅛	10.10	7.07
95⅝	[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	[illegible]	+⅛	3.96	5.54
119⅝	108⅝	Conv 9½% 2004	114⅝	+⅛	8.26	6.76
102⅝	94⅛	Treas 6¾% 2004	100⅝	+⅛	6.74	6.73
114⅛	104⅝	Treas 8½% 2005	110½	+⅛	7.69	6.67
122⅝	110⅝	Conv 9½% 2005	115⅝	+⅛	8.21	6.77
130⅝	124⅝	Treas 12½% 2003-05	[illegible]	+⅛	9.80	6.84
106⅝	96⅛	Treas 7½% 2006	105⅛	+⅛	7.11	6.87
112⅛	99⅛	Treas 7¾% 2006	106⅝	+⅛	7.25	6.70
108⅛	100²⁹⁄₃₂	Treas 8% 2002-06	104⅛	+⅛	7.67	6.94
122⁹⁄₁₆	115⅝	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	120⅝	+⅛	9.72	6.68
116⅛	106⅛	Treas 8½% 2007	112⅝	+⅛	7.55	6.70
107¼	99⅛	Treas 7¼% 2007	104⅝	+⅛	6.94	6.62
121⅛	109⅝	Treas 9% 2008	118⅝	+⅛	7.58	6.57
114⅛	101	Treas 8% 2009	111⅛	+⅛	7.19	6.60
99⅝	89⅛	Treas 6¼% 2010	96⅝	+⅛	6.47	6.55
124⅛	111⅛	Conv 9% 2011	120⅝	+⅛	7.45	6.55
125⅝	108⅛	Treas 9% 2012	121⅝	+⅛	7.39	6.55
93⅛	80⅝	Treas 5½% 2008-12	90⅛	-⅛	6.07	6.53
112⅝	98⅛	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	109⅛	+⅛	7.07	6.70

LONGS (over 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
116⅛	100⅝	Treas 8% 2013	113⅛	+⅛	7.07	6.64
118⅝	101⅛	Treas 8% 2015	114⅝	+⅛	6.95	6.57
126⅝	108⅛	Treas 8¾% 2017	123⅝	+⅛	7.09	6.61
121⅝	101⅝	Tr 8% 2021	117⅝	+⅛	6.81	6.84

UNDATED

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
54⅛	43⅝	War Ln 3½%	52⅛	+⅛	6.63	
38⅛	30⅝	Treas 2½%	38⅝	-⅛	6.66	
50⅛	49⅛	Consols 4%	[illegible]		6.64	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	5%	3%
[illegible]	184⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2001	[illegible]	+⅛	3.28	3.00
190⅝	180⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2003	189⅛	+⅛	[illegible]	3.48
[illegible]	117⅝	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	[illegible]	+⅛	[illegible]	3.42
204⅛	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	202⅝	+⅛	[illegible]	3.39
185⅛	170⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2009	183⅝	+⅛	3.21	3.32
194⅛	176⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2011	191½	+⅛	3.20	3.28
161⅛	144⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2013	158⅝	+⅛	3.19	[illegible]
174⅛	153⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2016	171⅛	+⅛	[illegible]	[illegible]
168⅛	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	165⅝	+⅛	3.20	3.27
141⅝	122⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2024	[illegible]	+⅛	3.19	3.25
[illegible]	119⅝	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	138⅛	+⅛	3.18	3.24

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
ASDA	160	12	16½	21	6	9	11½
(*163)	180	4	8	12½	18½	20½	23
Abbey Natl	950	69½	93½	116	56	79	92
(*953)	1000	47½	71	93½	83½	107	119
AllDomec	650	57	74	83½	15½	30½	32
(*684½)	700	28	47½	57	37½	54½	55½
[illegible]	500	37	48	57	19	24	32½
(*527)	550	16½	25	34	46	51½	59
BAA	460	55½	70	80	9	14½	22
(*492½)	500	30½	45½	58	23½	30½	39
BAT Ind	500	63	79	86	13	29½	27½
(*544½)	550	35	52	60	33	53½	51
Barclays	1450	128½	165½	205½	80½	104½	125
(*1489)	1500	105	142½	191	106	129	149½
Bass	850	60	89	94½	30	48	43½
(*879)	900	32	63½	68	55	72½	67
Boots	850	66½	91	107½	27	33	49
(*878)	900	41	65	80½	50	63	72
Br Airways	550	42	65	73½	29½	34	42
(*564)	600	21	42	50½	50½	59½	65½
BP	850	64	91	107½	37½	55	63½
(*869)	900	41½	67½	82	61½	76	88
Br Steel	140	13½	18½	22	5½	8	12½
(*149)	160	5½	10	13½	16½	19	24
C&W	500	42	64	75½	22	38	45
(*516½)	550	22	42½	53	49	64	72
CU	750	72½	94	87	41½	63½	53½
(*768½)	800	48	70½	63	67½	90½	80
Glaxo W	1250	82½	112	144½	58½	93½	101
(*1258)	1300	58	87½	119½	82½	119½	126
HSBC	1450	150	208½	239	122½	170½	184
(*1469)	1500	126	184½	216	148	196	210
Halifax	650	55	67½	80½	14½	26	31
(*683½)	700	26	40½	54½	35½	50½	55
ICI	800	79½	93½	112	23½	42½	50
(*845½)	850	50½	66½	86½	43½	65½	74
Land Sec	950	89	86½	94½	21	34	46
(*980)	1000	44½	59½	65	55	58	69
M&S	600	37½	52½	60	27	37	40½
(*601½)	650	18	31½	38½	57½	61½	68½
Nat Pwr	500	47	66½	74½	19	28	35
(*534)	550	21½	41	53	41	50½	60½
Nat West	850	75	99	110	46	64½	76
(*857½)	900	50½	65	86	71	91	101½
Reuters	650	45½	64	76½	33	42½	57½
(*658½)	700	24	41½	54	60	70½	81
RylBSco	500	49	61½	73	22	32½	39½
(*525)	550	25½	37½	50	47½	59½	65
Safeway	390	24	36	48½	13½	19½	22½
(*399½)	420	12½	21½	26½	32½	36	39½
Sainsbury	460	50	62½	71½	10	14	17
(*496)	500	25½	40½	53	25	30	33½
Shell	417	25½	—	—	20	—	—
(*418)	433	19	—	—	28	—	—
Smkl Bch	525	49½	68	—	19	33	—
(*543)	550	38	56	72	30	45½	50½
Std Char	600	71	86½	106	33	44	51½
(*639½)	650	44	61	82	56½	68½	76
Thames W	850	59½	79	96½	22½	35½	44½
(*887)	900	31½	53	70	45½	59	68
Vodafone	330	38½	50½	58½	11	15½	20
(*357½)	360	22½	34	43½	23½	29	33½
Woolwich	280	28½	31½	36½	4½	10½	14
(*297)	300	17½	26½	28	12½	19½	23
Zeneca	1700	137½	181	215½	54½	92	85½
(*1764½)	1800	84	128½	164	99½	139	131½

	Series	Calls Nov	Feb	May	Puts Nov	Feb	May
BTR	200	3½	21	29	2½	13½	22
(*202½)	220	—	13	21	17½	24½	33½
Blue Circ	330	25	42	49½	—	11½	14½
(*354½)	360	3½	25	33½	7½	24½	28½
Br Aero	1500	52	132	174	3½	58	85
(*1550)	1600	2½	81	122½	53	106	133
Br Telcm	425	35	49	—	—	14	—
(*460)	465	3	26	—	8	31	—
Cadbury	600	14	44½	55	4	23½	34
(*612)	650	—	24½	32	38½	51	61½
Energy Gp	600	27½	42	51½	½	12	28
(*626½)	650	1	19½	29	24½	33½	37½
Gallaher	300	16	31½	36	½	13	14½
(*315½)	330	½	16	20½	15	28	30
GEC	330	10½	30½	41	1	18½	21½
(*400)	420	—	18	26½	28	35	37
Grnd Met	550	21½	47½	59½	1½	25	31
(*571)	600	—	24½	35	29½	53	58
Guinness	550	20½	52½	59½	2	23	36
(*569½)	600	—	29	36	31	50	62
Hanson	280	13	30½	34½	½	15	17
(*291)	300	2½	20½	24	10	25	27
Imp Tob	390	5	19½	26	3½	26½	28½
(*390)	420	—	9½	17½	30	48	49
Kingfshr	800	32	79	93	1½	33½	49½
(*829½)	850	4½	54½	67	23	55½	73½
Lasmo	260	18½	33	41½	—	10	13½
(*278)	280	4	22	31½	5	17½	22½
Ladbroke	260	13½	27½	35	½	8	15½
(*272½)	280	2	17½	25	9	17½	25
LucasVar	200	2½	16	19	3	13	15½
(*200)	220	—	9	11	20	25½	27
P&O	650	28	57½	67½	1	21½	29½
(*677½)	700	2	30	41½	24	45	53½
Prudentl	650	9	55½	66	9½	42	55½
(*652½)	700	—	32	45	48	71½	84½
Rio Tinto	700	49½	86	99	—	24½	43
(*749)	750	10	57	72	11	45½	67
Redland	330	5	14½	25½	2	9	12½
(*332)	360	—	3½	10	28	28½	31
R-Royce	220	19	29½	34½	—	8½	11½
(*239)	240	3½	19	23	3½	17	20
Tesco	460	22	42½	53½	½	14	23
(*482½)	500	1	22½	32½	18½	32½	42½
Utd Bisc	200	20	26½	30	—	4½	10½
(*219½)	220	5	13½	18	4½	12	19½

	Series	Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
BG PLC	261	14½	27	31½	6½	14½	18
(*267½)	283	5½	17½	21½	19	25½	29½
BSkyB	420	21	40	53	17	33	38½
(*421)	460	7	22½	35½	43	57½	59½
Br Bio	100	15½	23	31½	5	12½	15
(*105½)	110	11½	19	27½	10½	18	20½
[illegible]	80	11½	16	15½	1½	3½	6
(*89½)	90	5	10½	14½	5½	7½	10½
Dixons	650	44½	71	88½	16½	34	42
(*674)	700	20	47	63½	41	58	66½
EMI	490	36½	56	—	18	31½	—
(*506½)	520	23	42½	—	32	46	—
Granada	750	60	79	93	6½	24	29
(*797½)	800	28	51	64	24	44	51
GUS	650	61	82	97½	7	23	27½
(*696½)	700	29	54½	69½	24½	42½	48½
Lloyds TSB	700	43	72	89½	22	45½	55
(*717½)	750	21	48½	65½	49½	72	81
Lonrho	80	11½	15½	20	1½	6½	8½
(*88)	90	6	10½	16	5½	11½	13½
Norwich	360	16	35½	38	12½	21	25½
(*364)	390	4½	22½	25	29½	36½	42½
Orange	240	18	27	33½	5	8½	12½
(*249½)	260	8	16½	23	15	18	22
Railtrack	1000	47½	90	113	43	70	73
(*1008)	1050	29½	68	89	70½	96	98
Scot Pwr	420	43	55½	69½	4½	14½	22
(*457)	460	18	35½	48½	17	30	38½
Tarmac	110	7½	12½	14	4	7	9
(*112)	120	3½	8	10	10	12½	15
Tomkins	280	15½	23½	32	9	14½	18
(*287)	300	6½	15½	22½	16	25	29½
Unilever	450	24½	42	47½	12½	23	24½
(*461)	475	12½	29½	34½	24½	35½	36½

November 17 Total: 34355 Calls: 15096 Puts: 19259

FTSE INDEX (*4869½)

Strike	Calls Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Jun	Puts Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Jun
4700	180	317	374½	420½	531½	12½	114½	159½	195½	252
4750	140½	280½	330½	398	—	20½	128½	176	213	—
4800	109	248½	308½	368	473½	33	146	196	232	292½
4850	75½	217½	276½	336	—	50	167½	217	252	—
4900	48	186	248½	308	414½	73½	183½	237	272½	334½
4950	28½	155½	217½	277½	—	105	212½	257½	295½	—
5000	15	130½	192	251	358	143	240½	283	321	377½
5050	7	107½	168½	228½	—	188	266	311	351½	—

November 17 Total: 10085 Calls: 4251 Puts: 5834 *Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest 190183	Dec 97 Mar 98	117-19 118-08	118-01 118-15	117-18 118-08	117-31 118-15	32898 2097
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest 269674	Dec 97 Mar 98	102.67 101.99	102.86 102.07	102.58 101.99	102.82 102.13	92675 1513
German Govt Bond (Bobl) Previous open interest 21430	Dec 97 Mar 98	103.60 103.03	103.74 103.03	103.60 103.03	103.78 103.03	5239 185
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 119784	Dec 97 Mar 98	112.11 112.60	112.38 112.60	112.05 112.50	112.27 112.52	32611 290
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97 Mar 98	129.83 129.21	129.94 129.35	129.83 129.21	129.93 129.33	4344 3018
Three Mth Sterling Previous open interest 747281	Dec 97 Mar 98 Jun 98	92.33 92.25 92.24	92.35 92.27 92.27	92.32 92.25 92.23	92.33 92.26 92.26	7383 9020 4216
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1824512	Dec 97 Mar 98	96.18 96.01	96.20 96.04	96.17 96.00	96.18 96.02	18079 29174
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest [illegible]	Dec 97 Mar 98	93.79 94.56	93.80 94.61	93.76 94.54	93.79 94.57	10805 8735
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest 190825	Dec 97 Mar 98	97.95 97.82	97.97 97.84	97.88 97.75	97.91 97.80	7727 6308
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 37194	Dec 97 Mar 98	95.34 95.34	95.34 95.34	95.32 95.31	95.32 95.33	634 139
FTSE 100 Previous open interest 72218	Dec 97 Mar 98	4920.0 4907.0	4990.0 4928.0	4843.0 4907.0	[illegible] 4944.0	11407 164

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 7¾

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7½ Low 7⅛ Week fixed: [illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open [illegible], close [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.61	n/a	5.78	5.82	5.94
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2⅛-2	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $304.60-304.90 Close: $303.40-303.90 High: $304.60-304.90
Low: $302.10-302.60 AM: $303.00 PM: $303.75

Krugerrand: $303.00-305.00 (£179.00-181.00)

Platinum: $386.00 (£228.95) **Silver:** $5.15 (£3.045) **Palladium:** $207.00 (£122.80)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 17	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3023-3.3109	3.3065-3.3095	1½-1pr	3½-3pr
Brussels	60.430-60.620	60.474-60.584	22-17pr	61-54pr
Copenhagen	11.146-11.179	11.167-11.175	[illegible]pr	1-½pr
Dublin	1.1223-1.1293	1.1245-1.1271	12-6pr	41-35pr
Frankfurt	2.9296-2.9372	2.9336-2.9357	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	[illegible]	299.07-299.32	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Madrid	247.04-247.75	247.42-247.66	51-41pr	167-148pr
Milan	2866.7-2876.1	2872.2-2875.7	28-12pr	91-68pr
Montreal	2.3803-2.3941	2.3918-2.3937	0.75-0.69pr	1.49-1.41pr
New York	1.6866-1.6932	1.6925-1.6932	0.25-0.23pr	0.74-0.71pr
Oslo	11.932-11.9840	11.960-11.971	[illegible]pr	1½-1pr
Paris	9.8120-9.8380	9.8228-9.8311	3½-3pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	12.730-12.798	12.768-12.782	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	210.97-213.02	212.79-213.02	1½-1pr	3½-3½pr
Vienna	20.618-20.682	20.645-20.661	[illegible]pr	2-1½pr
Zurich	2.3854-2.3903	2.3854-2.3879	1½-1pr	3½-3½pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr Discount = ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.4326-1.4347
Austria	12.20-12.21
Belgium (Com)	35.76-35.77
Canada	1.4136-1.4141
Denmark	6.5990-6.6010
France	5.8057-5.8077
Germany	1.7338-1.7348
Hong Kong	7.7300-7.7310
Ireland	1.5009-1.5049
Italy	1698.45-1698.95
Japan	125.45-125.50
Malaysia	3.3270-3.3320
Netherlands	1.9540-1.9545
Norway	7.0700-7.0760
Portugal	176.75-176.80
Singapore	1.5800-1.5850
Spain	146.27-146.37
Sweden	7.5494-7.5568
Switzerland	1.4097-1.4107

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6920-1.6947
Australia dollar	2.4234-2.4265
Bahrain dinar	0.6285-0.6425
Brazil real*	1.8743-1.8789
China yuan	13.814-14.114
Cyprus pound	0.846-0.865
Finland markka	8.735-8.876
Greece drachma	454.0-464.5
Hong Kong dollar	13.0784-13.0878
India rupee	61.58-62.88
Indonesia rupiah	unq
Kuwait dinar KD	0.506-0.517
Malaysia ringgit	5.6290-5.6407
New Zealand dollar	2.6945-2.6983
Pakistan rupee	72.70 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.070-6.205
Singapore dollar	2.6740-2.6790
S Africa rand (com)	8.099-8.268
U A E dirham	6.125-6.261

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	639	Legal & Gn	2,600
ASDA Gp	3,400	Lloyds TSB	10,200
Abbey Ntl	3,900	LucasVarity	2,300
Allnce & Leic	3,000	Marks Spr	3,000
Allied Dom	1,300	NatWst Bk	3,300
AB Foods	1,100	Nat Grid	2,100
BAA	2,400	Nat Power	3,000
BAT Inds	4,600	Next	621
BG	6,900	Norwich Un	3,100
BOC	986	Orange	2,200
BP	6,400	P & O	2,100
BSkyB	1,500	Pearson	2,700
BTR	5,400	PowerGen	1,200
BT	10,300	Prudential	1,900
Bk of Scot	2,100	RMC	254
Barclays	2,800	Railtrack	829
Bass	2,100	Rank Group	919
Billiton	4,700	Reckitt Col	641
Blue Circle	749	Reed Intl	2,500
Boots	932	Rentokil	5,600
BAe	857	Reuters	3,500
BA	2,300	Rio Tinto	2,800
British Land	1,200	Rolls Royce	10,600
Brit Steel	7,600	Royal & Sun	3,800
Cable Wire	4,300	Royal Bk Sct	1,100
Cadbury	2,800	Safeway	2,200
Carlton Cms	1,000	Sainsbury	2,800
Centrica	8,800	Schroders	75
Cm Union	1,500	Scot & New	2,100
Dixons	1,000	Scot Power	1,900
EMI	1,300	Svrn Trent	1,200
Energy Gp	675	Shell Trans	11,100
Enterpr Oil	700	Siebe	2,000
GKN	294	SmKl Bch	14,200
GRE	1,000	Smiths Inds	957
GUS	1,200	Std Chartd	1,100
Gen Acc	982	Sun Life	239
Gen Elec	4,600	TI Gp	2,000
Glaxo Well	3,200	Tesco	3,400
Granada	1,600	Thames W	625
Grand Met	3,700	Tomkins	3,300
Guinness	2,300	Unilever	5,200
HSBC	2,400	Utd Utilities	818
Halifax	1,900	Utd News	1,000
Hays	757	Vodafone	5,600
ICI	851	Whitbread	1,200
Kingfisher	1,400	Williams	1,200
LASMO	2,700	Wolseley	560
Ladbroke	2,900	Woolwich	2,300
Land Secs	2,100	Zeneca	1,800

WALL STREET

	Nov 17 midday	Nov 14 close
AMP Inc	43⅛	42¼
AMR Corp	119⅜	118¼
AT & T	49⅛	48⅛
Abbott Labs	65⅝	64⅛
Advanced Micro	21¼	20⅝
Aetna Life	78⅛	77¼
Ahmanson (HF)	59⅝	58⅛
Air Prod & Chem	79	79⅛
AirTouch Comm	39¼	39¼
Albertson's	37⅛	36⅛
Alcan Alumnm	28¼	28¼
Allied Signal	35⅝	36
Alum Co of Am	69⅛	70
Amerada Hess	60⅝	59⅛
Amer El Power	48	47¼
Amer Express	77⅝	77¼
Amer Genl Corp	51⅛	51⅛
Amer Home Pr	69⅛	70⅛
Amer Ind	101⅛	98⅛
Amer Stores	20⅛	20¼
Amer Standard	39⅜	38⅜
Ameritech	73⅝	72⅝
Amgen	52⅝	52¼
Amoco	94⅛	93⅛
Andrew Corp	25⅛	24¼
Anheuser-Busch	43⅛	42⅛
Apple Computer	18⅝	18⅛
Archer Daniels	21⅝	21⅛
Armco	5⅛	5⅛
Armstrng Wrld	67¼	66⅝
Asarco	25¼	25⅛
Atl Richfield	81⅛	79¼
Atmel Corp	25¼	24¼
Auto Data Pro	57⅝	56⅝
Avery Dennison	39⅜	39⅛
Avon Products	63⅝	62⅛
Baker Hughes	45⅛	45⅝
Baltim Gas & El	28⅛	27⅝
Banc One	52⅛	50⅝
BankAmerica	74⅛	70⅛
Bank of NY	48	47⅛
Bankers Tr NY	116⅛	113⅛
Barnett Banks	71⅛	69⅝
Bausch & Lomb	40¼	39⅝
Baxter Intl	47¼	46⅛
Becton Dicknsn	46	45⅛
Bell Atlantic	83¼	83¼
BellSouth	51⅝	51⅛
Black & Decker	38⅛	37⅛
Block (H&R)	38⅛	38⅛
Boeing	49	47⅝
Boise Cascade	35⅛	35⅛
Boston Scien	56⅝	55
Bristol Myrs Sq	93⅛	93⅛
Browning Ferris	36⅛	35⅛
Brunswick	32⅛	32⅛
Burlington Nthn	93⅛	92⅛
CMS Energy Corp	37⅛	36⅝
CPC Intl	101⅝	100⅛
CSX	53⅛	53⅛
Campbell Soup	53⅛	52⅝
Carolina P&L	30	35¼
Case Corp	62⅛	61⅛
Caterpillar	46⅝	45⅝
Central & SW	22⅛	21⅝
Champion Intl	55⅝	54⅝
Chase Manhat	108¼	103⅛
Chevron Corp	84	83⅝
Chrysler	32⅝	32⅛
Chubb Corp	68⅛	67⅛
Cigna Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Citicorp	119⅛	116
Clorox	77⅛	73¼
Coastal Corp	60⅛	59⅛
Coca Cola	59⅛	57⅛
Coca Cola Ent	29⅛	28⅛
Colgate-Palm	65⅛	63⅛
Columbia Gas	71¼	70⅛
ColumbiaHCA	31¼	31¼
Compaq Comp	66⅝	62⅛
Comp Ass Intl	73⅛	71⅛
Conseco	35⅛	34⅛
Cons Edison	36⅛	36
Cons Nat Gas	58¼	57⅛
Cooper Inds	50	50⅛
Corestates	72	70⅝
Corning Inc	43⅛	42⅛
[illegible]	38⅝	35⅛
Crestar Finl	48¼	48⅛
Crown Cork	46¼	46⅛
Dana Corp	48⅛	48⅛
Dayton Hudson	66⅝	65⅝
Deere	53	52⅛
Delta Air Lines	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deluxe Corp	34¼	34⅛
Digital Equip	49⅝	49⅛
Dillard Dept St	37⅛	37
Disney (Walt)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dominion Res	38	37⅛
Donnelley (RR)	35⅛	34⅝
Dover Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dow Chemical	94⅛	92⅝
Dow Jones	47⅛	47⅛
Dresser	40¼	40⅛
Duke Power	50⅛	49⅝
Dun & Bradstreet	28	27¼
Du Pont	57⅛	57⅛
Eastman Chem	59⅛	58⅝
Eastman Kodak	59⅝	59⅛
Eaton Corp	95⅝	94⅝
Edison Intl	25⅛	25⅛
Elect Data Sys	38⅛	37⅛
Emerson Elec	52⅛	51⅝
Engelhard Corp	17⅝	17⅝
Enron Corp	36⅝	36⅛
Entergy	26⅛	26⅛
Ethyl Corp	8⅛	8⅛
Exxon	61¼	61⅛
FMC Corp	73⅛	73
FPL Group	54⅛	54
Federal Express	64⅛	62⅝
Fifth Third Banc	67⅛	66
Fleet Finl Grp	63⅛	62⅛
Fluor Corp	38¼	38⅛
Ford Motor	42⅝	43⅛
Fort James	38⅛	37⅛
Fortune Brands	35⅛	34⅝
Franklin Res	89⅛	87⅛
GTE Corp	46¼	46
Gannett	59	59⅛
Gap Inc Del	55	53⅛
Gateway 2000	29⅝	28⅝
Gen Dynamics	83¼	83
Gen Electric	70⅝	69⅝
Gen Mills	73¼	73⅛
Gen Motors	62⅛	61⅛
Gen Reinsurnce	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Signal	41	40⅝
Genuine Parts	32⅛	32⅛
Georgia Pac	86⅛	83⅛
Gillette	91¼	89⅛
Glaxo Wellc ADR	42¼	41¼
Goodrich (BF)	44	43⅝
Goodyear Tire	63⅛	60⅛
Great Lakes	45⅛	46⅛
Halliburton	58⅝	57⅛
Harcourt General	52⅝	51⅛
Heinz (HJ)	50⅛	49⅝
Hercules	47⅛	46⅝
Hershey Foods	56⅛	55⅛
Hewlett Packard	63⅛	61⅛
Hilton Hotels	31⅝	31⅛
Home Depot	56⅝	56⅛
Homestake Mng	11⅛	11⅛
Honeywell	70⅛	69
Household Intl	117⅝	115⅛
Houston Inds	22¼	22⅛
Humana	22⅛	21⅝
ITT Corp	75⅛	75¼
Ikon Office	30⅛	30
Illinois Tool	51⅛	50⅝
Illinova	21¼	21¼
INCO	18⅛	18⅛
Ingersoll Rand	39	38
Inland Steel	20⅛	20⅛
Intel Corp	80⅛	78⅛
IBM	103⅝	101⅝
Intl Flav & Fr	49⅛	48⅛
Intl Paper	47⅛	47⅛
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	63⅛	62¼
Kellogg	46¼	45¼
Kerr-McGee	68⅝	67⅛
Kimberly-Clark	49⅛	49⅝
Kmart	12⅝	12⅛
Knight-Ridder	50¼	49⅛
Lilly (Eli)	68⅝	66¼
Limited Inc	24⅛	24⅛
Lincoln Nat	70⅛	66⅛
Litton	49⅛	48⅛
Liz Claiborne	50⅛	49⅝
Lockheed Martin	93⅝	92¼
Louisiana Pac	21⅛	20⅛
MCI Comm	42⅛	41⅝
Manpower Inc	36⅛	36⅛
Marriott Int	71⅛	69¼
Marsh & McLnn	71⅝	71⅛
Masco Corp	46⅛	46⅛
May Dept St	55⅛	54⅛
Maytag Corp	32¼	31⅛
McDonalds	47⅛	46⅝
McGraw Hill	68⅛	67⅛
Mead Corp	61⅝	60⅝
Meditrust Corp	37⅝	37⅛
Medtronic	48⅛	47⅛
Mellon Bk	52⅛	51⅝
Merck Inc	91¼	90⅛
Mercury Fin	1⅛	1⅛
Merrill Lynch	67⅝	66⅛
Microsoft	135	137⅛
Minnesota Mine	95⅛	94⅛
Mirage Resorts	24⅛	23⅛
Mobil Corp	74⅝	74
Monsanto	44⅛	43⅝
Morgan (JP)	113	109⅛
Motorola Inc	66⅛	64⅛
Mylan Labs	23⅝	24
Natl Semi	33⅛	32
Natl Service Ind	46⅛	44⅛
Navistar Int	21⅝	21⅛
NY Times A	56¼	56
Newmont Mng	31⅝	31⅛
Nike B	48⅝	48⅛
NL Industries	16⅛	16⅝
Nordstrom	60⅝	60⅝
Norfolk Sthrn	31⅛	31⅛
Nthn State Pwr	53⅝	52⅝
Norwest Corp	33⅛	32⅛
Occidental Pet	28⅛	28⅛
Oracle	35⅛	34⅝
Oryx Energy Co	28⅛	28⅝
Owens Corning	34⅛	34⅝
PPG Industries	54¼	54
PMI Group	65⅝	64⅛
PNC Bank	48⅝	47⅝
PP&L Res	22⅛	21⅝
Paccar Inc	49⅛	48⅛
Pacificorp	21⅝	21⅛
Pac Enterprises	33⅛	32⅝
Pall Corp	20⅝	20⅛
Parker Hannifin	45	46⅛
Peco Energy	23	22⅛
Penney (JC)	64¼	64⅛
Pennzoil	67⅛	67⅛
Pepsico	38⅝	38⅝
Pfizer	71⅛	71⅝
Pharm & Upjhn	32⅛	31⅛
Phelps Dodge	69⅝	70⅛
Philip Morris	42⅛	41⅝
Phillips Pet	50⅝	50⅛
Pitney Bowes	82⅛	81⅛
Polaroid	42¼	42
Procter & Gmbl	75⅛	74⅛
Providian	41⅛	41
Pub Serv E & G	28⅛	27⅝
Quaker Oats	52⅝	53⅝
Ralston Purina	88⅛	87⅛
Raychem Corp	93⅛	91⅝
Raytheon	49⅛	50
Reebok Intl	38⅛	39
Reliastar Fin	35⅝	34⅛
Reynolds Metals	57⅛	57⅝
Rockwell Intl	47⅛	45⅛
Rohm & Haas	89⅝	89⅛
Royal Dutch	53⅛	52⅛
Rubbermaid	23⅝	23⅛
SBC Comms	68⅛	68⅛
Safeco Corp	45⅛	46⅛
St Paul's Cos	80⅛	79¼
Salomon Inc	81⅝	79⅛
Sara Lee Corp	54⅛	53
Schering Plough	61¼	61⅛
Schlumberger	86⅛	86⅛
Seagram	33⅛	33⅛
Sears Roebuck	47¼	48⅛
Shell Trans	42⅛	41⅛
Sherwin Wilms	28⅛	28
Silicon Graphics	14¼	13⅝
Snap-On-Tools	43⅝	43⅛
Southern Co	22⅛	22⅛
Southtrust	50⅛	49⅛
Sprint Corp	57⅛	57⅛
Stanley Works	43⅛	42⅛
Sun Company	41⅝	41⅛
Sun Microsys	36¼	34⅛
Suntrust	68⅛	66⅝
Supervalu	38	37⅝
Synovus Fin	22⅛	21⅝
Sysco Corp	41⅛	40⅛
TRW Inc	57⅛	57
TIG Hldgs	33	32⅛
Tandy Corp	44	43⅛
Temple Inland	59⅛	59⅛
Tenet Healthcare	30⅛	30⅛
Tenneco	43⅛	43⅛
Texaco	57⅝	55⅝
Texas Inst	90	93¼
Texas Utilities	37⅛	36⅝
Textron	56	55⅝
Thermo Elect	38	37⅝
Time Warner	60⅛	59⅝
Times-Mirror A	57¼	57⅛
Timken	34⅛	34⅛
Torchmark	41	40
Toys R Us	34⅛	35⅛
Transamerica	105⅛	108⅝
Travelers	73⅛	70⅝
Tribune	58⅝	58⅛
UST Inc	30⅛	30⅛
US Bancorp	103⅝	103⅝
UAL	83¼	81⅝
[illegible]	63⅛	62⅛
US Inds	25¼	25⅛
US West Comm	43⅛	43⅛
US West Media	26⅝	26
USAirways Group	49¼	48¼
USX Marathon	35⅛	35⅛
Unicom	29⅛	28
Unilever NV	57⅝	56⅝
Union Camp	57⅛	57⅝
Union Carbide	44⅛	44⅛
Union Pacific	58⅝	60⅛
Unisys Corp	14⅝	14⅛
UNUM Corp	20⅛	20⅛
United Tech	73⅝	72⅛
Unocal Corp	41⅝	40⅝
VF Corp	92⅝	91⅝
Wal-Mart Stores	40⅛	39⅛
Warner-Lambert	139⅛	136⅛
Waste Mngmt	24⅝	25
Wells Fargo	[illegible]	[illegible]
Westinghouse El	29⅛	28⅛
Weyerhaeuser	49⅛	48⅛
Whirlpool	54⅛	53⅛
Whitman	25⅛	25⅛
Winn Dixie	38⅝	39
Witco Corp	43⅛	43⅝
Woolworth	20⅝	20
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	76⅛	74⅝
Xerox	75⅝	73
Xilinx Inc	35⅛	33⅛

Past failures forgotten as the UK heads fearlessly for Expo

It is said that three words convey the same meaning in every language. Taxi: a means of transport in cities. Hallelujah: a religious exultation. Expo: a mix of trade fair and Disneyland that guzzles public funds and ends its days rotting in the backyard of whichever country had the misfortune to play host.

Take Expo '92, for example. Set in Seville, it was billed as an extravaganza in which each country built a stall, filled it with feats of national innovation and wowed the crowds with its home-grown ingenuity. In spite of being in the depths of recession, Britain was not about to be left out. The Department of Trade and Industry ploughed £20 million of public funds into its effort — it commissioned a glass and steel building the size of Westminster Abbey, which the Government hailed as representing "the rebirth of Britain".

That was asking for trouble. Only 1.5 million people visited the British pavilion — one million fewer than the DTI had hoped for. The Spanish national audit office found the £90 million profit claimed by the Socialist government was, in fact, a £200 million loss.

Its plans for regeneration a flop, Britain decided to ship home its multimillion-pound site, piece by piece, or sell it for scrap, if no home was found. Expo became Eurospeak for "white elephant".

Now, it is Expo time again and neither Britain nor Portugal, next year's host, is disheartened by the legacy of financial disaster they have inherited. Portugal is confident it can avoid the mistakes of Seville and is ploughing £1.5 billion into ensuring that it will succeed where all the other Expos have failed.

Nor is Britain's DTI fazed by the barrage of cricitism it suffered last time. Rather then see Expo as a means of commercial suicide, it has pledged £3.1 million of public funds to set up its own stall and once again try its hand at showing the world the best of British.

It is taking the view that Expo is all about image — and the Portuguese Expo is a chance to try its hand at some brand reinvention. With a much more limited budget, the scope for financial catastrophe will be much reduced and, this time maybe, Britain will play its part in a meaner, leaner Expo series.

Britain will be competing for the hearts and minds of an estimated 2.5 million visitors to its exhibit. It will be one of 142 countries that will be vying for the 8.5 million people that Portugal expects to visit Expo.

The centrepiece of the New Britain image is the national day, where much of the DTI's money will be used to project images of British business acoss the whole site. Rather than rely on Britain's well-worn march of history, which was the mistake made at Expo 92, the UK delegation has picked Angus Farquhar, a Glasgow artist who made his name in Test Department — an experimental 1980s rock band with a penchant for loud drumming — and now specialises in masterminding one-off events.

With a limited budget, the DTI effort may be leaner and meaner this time

He intends to project images of British business, with their help and sponsorship, anywhere he can in the 150-acre site. He talks cryptically about "earth, wind, fire and water", and leaving everyone in no doubt about the things that make Britain great. He is joined by Roger Westbrook, British Ambassador to Portugal, who openly jokes that he will be recalled and sent to govern the Falkland Islands as a punishment if Britain's Expo effort flops.

Both are keen to ensure that the Britain projecting itself at the Portuguese Expo will not be the proud, old empire-building country that gleefully joined in Spain's historical navel-gazing five years ago. This time, he says, Britain will merely "glance across its shoulder" at history and focus on Britain's future. The implication is that, after seeing the British pavilion, visitors will go out and buy British.

Not that the Portuguese need much persuading. Portugal is one of Britain's oldest trading partners and trade between the two countries amounts to £1.5 billion a year. Britain has also won an attractive piece of Portugal's £1.5 billion Expo budget for itself. British construction companies are heavily involved in cleaning the new site, and Trafalgar House is leading the consortium that is building the new bridge across the site.

But the biggest question is whether Portugal will manage to turn the Expo site into something useful once everyone has gone home. Unlike Seville's Expo, Lisbon is building all its venues and plans to sell them later as a London Docklands-type office development. It plans to come out with 1.85 million square metres of houses, offices and shops where more than 5,000 people will live and work alongside the world's largest aquarium. Expo will, the organisers hope, go on to become Lisbon's brave new world.

This is an ambitious plan. The State is spending £620 million, which it hopes to reclaim through tax within eight years. It expects that Expo will bring £550 million of extra tourism revenue next year alone — enough to make up a third of the forecast 3 per cent GDP growth.

The Expo authorities are not short of critics. Portuguese newspapers question the usefulness of mammoth fairs in an age of instant communication. And the success of the venture largely depends on hitting the target of 15 million visits, which relies on some 6.5 million people paying for entry on two days.

They are quick to remind people that such international trade fairs left the Crystal Palace in London and the Eiffel Tower in Paris. But anyone can throw a good party, given enough money; the real test will come if the banks are still happy in five years' time. To prove itself a success, Portugal will have to go further than lay on the greatest show on earth.

FRASER NELSON

BA goes in search of blue skies with no-frills travel operation

Jon Ashworth finds rival low-cost airlines disturbed by the threat from Britain's major carrier

In America, low-cost carriers speak for about 30 per cent of the domestic air travel market — nearly a third of all passengers. In other words. Operators such as Southwest Airlines, Tower Air and ValuJet (renamed AirTran following the Florida DC-9 crash) have steadily encroached on the traditional carriers since America opened its domestic skies to competition in 1978. Southwest alone has 250 Boeing 737s in its fleet — clear evidence of the lasting appeal of the no-frills package.

On April 1, the European Commission wrapped up its own programme of deregulation, allowing any European Union airline to start domestic services in another member country. The past three years has seen the launch of a number of low-cost carriers, including Ryanair, flying from Stansted, and Virgin Express, based in Brussels. UK operators include Debonair and EasyJet, both based in Luton. Business travellers are an important source of custom.

The low-cost market between the UK and other European destinations has grown from nothing to 5 per cent in just two years, and the US experience suggests that there is a lot more left to go round. That, at any rate, was the argument being put forward yesterday by British Airways, which confirmed its rivals' worst fears by announcing the launch of its own low-cost venture.

Codenamed "Blue Sky", the carrier will launch in the first half of 1998, operating 737-300s out of Stansted, and serving destinations (initially) in Italy, Spain, Scandinavia, France and Germany. It will be run as a separate business with its own name, identity, management and employees. More than 150 jobs will be created in the first year, spread between pilots, cabin crew and telephone sales.

From the perspective of its low-cost rivals, BA has only one aim in launching its new service: to drive them out of the skies. It is seeking to "lock up" Stansted, grabbing the best slots and gates. Ryanair is directly affected; as is another Stansted-based carrier, Air UK, owned by KLM.

Some see a union-busting angle in all this. BA has succeeded in pushing through less-favourable pay and conditions at Euro Gatwick and British Airways Regional. Sceptics see a "Trojan Horse" element in Blue Sky — a warning to mainline BA pilots and crew to "toe the line or we go outside". This all fits with the virtual airline theory, in which doom-mongers foresee BA degenerating into little more than a brand, with all the main functions parcelled out to outside operators.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, has rejected the virtual airline argument more times than he cares to remember, but it stubbornly refuses to go away. Any fresh evidence of outsourcing is seized on with glee, and so it is with BA's no-frills carrier. Pouring cold water on some of this, Blue Sky has recognised the British Airline Pilots Association (Balpa) — a move not embraced by all low-cost operators.

Rivals were swift to question BA's motives yesterday. Franco Mancassola, chairman and chief executive of Debonair, said Blue Sky was a "warning light" to consumers, who could see air fares rise if BA succeeded in squeezing the low end of the market. He said: "I believe very strongly in competition, but if BA is going to use the brute force of their financial system to eliminate small competitors, then they should be stopped."

Franco Mancassola, Debonair chairman: a "warning light" to consumers

Stelios Haji-Ioannou, EasyJet chairman: ready to raise market issue in Brussels

Mr Mancassola added: "Deregulation was created to give the consumer a choice — not for people already in a position of strength to take advantage of every single scrap, like a vulture does in the desert."

Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, said the move was "typical" of BA's approach to business. He said: "They hate competition and Europe's new low-cost carriers are genuine competition when compared to BA's dominant and monopolistic control of the markets at Heathrow, Gatwick and other regional airports."

Mr Branson said Virgin would support other low-cost carriers in any petition they might make to the European Commission. EasyJet, run by Stelios Haji-Ioannou, said it would raise the issue in Brussels if there was evidence of an abuse of a dominant market position.

Barbara Cassani, Blue Sky's chief executive-elect, remained aloof from the debate yesterday, saying only: "I welcome and embrace competition."

Ms Cassani spent six months considering whether BA wanted to enter the low-cost market, and concluded that there was indeed scope for further demystifying the business of travel.

Blue Sky will operate eight 737s to begin with — at a cost of about £20 million a year in leasing charges, according to analysts. BA is not giving out figures but payroll costs will probably add another £4 million a year. All this is very small beer to a company with sales of £8.4 billion in 1996.

The carrier will sell direct to the public, bypassing travel agents. Bookings will be made by credit card over the phone, with receipts sent out in the post. Tickets will be issued at the airport with a minimum of fuss. This has implications for travel agents, who are facing a squeeze as it is. BA announced yesterday that it is cutting commission on tickets sold by travel agents in the UK with effect from January 1. Commission on international ticket sales falls from 9 to 7 per cent.

Misgivings aside, the BA launch should be good for consumers — in the short term, at least. Debonair, for one, quotes return fares of £69 on routes to Madrid and Copenhagen. BA quotes a full economy return fare (ex Heathrow) of £498 to Madrid and £464 to Copenhagen. The one drawback is Stansted, which has a narrow catchment area, and is not ideal as a destination, despite good rail links from London Liverpool Street.

Chris Tarry, aviation analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, says that BA, in choosing Stansted, is "putting a flag on the map", looking ten to 15 years ahead. Stansted is set to grow in importance as Heathrow and Gatwick move towards saturation. There is an element of dipping its toe in the water, seeing how things develop.

There is no guarantee that BA will make a success of it. Between 80 and 85 per cent of new carriers launched in America post-deregulation went out of business. European low-cost operators additionally have charter airlines to contend with, making their task all the more difficult.

MARKETING

When black and white become grey

When Guinness called time on its cryptic but successful "black and white" advertising campaign last week, it became the latest in a succession of household names that have recently written off big investments in well-known and popular campaigns.

Barclaycard has just waved goodbye to the £100 million or so it spent on a seven-year campaign starring Rowan Atkinson. Last month Nestlé ended a ten-year soap opera for coffee which cost a similar amount. And Cadbury is shortly due to kill off the "man in black" campaign for its Milk Tray assortments after a 30-year run and a spend of tens of millions of pounds.

With increasingly competitive marketplaces, fragmenting media and pressure from shareholders for immediate results, it is not surprising that advertisers seem to be increasingly turning to shortburst tactical campaigns at the expense of a more long-term approach. This can be exacerbated by pressure for change from within the company. Marketing directors spend less than two years on average in their posts before moving on, so they need to make their mark quickly. Changing the advertising is a visible way to do this.

But companies let it happen at their peril. For paradoxically in an area of business noted for its obsession with novelty and impact, long-running campaigns are what every advertiser should be searching for. The reason is that they confer a place in consumers' hearts that mere money cannot buy. "They give you a cumulative investment which far exceeds the value of each year's spend," said Nigel Clare, managing director of Heinz's European grocery division.

He should know — his company has used the phrase "57 varieties" in its advertising and promotions for more than a century.

Given the considerable benefits of long-term properties, you might wonder why they should ever be disposed off There is no single answer. But the most obvious reason is consumer boredom — probably the key factor behind the demise of the Gold Blend saga. "The basic principle behind advertising is that you have to keep people interested. Long-term campaigns add familiarity, but this can turn into contempt," said Stephen Carter chief executive of J Walter Thompson, the advertising agency. This shouldn't be confused with the boredom of the advertising agency, which often sees running old strategies as an insult to its creative integrity. "In those circumstances I'll change my agency before I change my campaign," said the managing director of one well known brand company.

But undoubtedly the strongest reason for change is when the property or campaign holds back the brand. In Barclaycard's case, said John Eaton, managing director, the Richard Latham character sold the idea that it was "a good support, a form of insurance for when things got difficult".

But, said Mr Eaton, consumers were now more financially sophisticated and there was more competition, so we wanted a more everyday approach. "The advertising strategy is part of the brand strategy which is a key part of the total business strategy. We couldn't move the business on until we had changed the advertising."

Cadbury faced a similar problem with the "man in black". Alan Palmer, marketing director, said: "He was developed in the Sixties. Since then relationships between men and women have changed to become less courtly. And there is a new competitive set facing boxed chocolates."

It seems there is a trade-off between the prudent success of the existing approach which may be saying the wrong things and the impact of a new campaign which can lack the resonance and leverage of something that consumers have known all their lives.

Mr Carter said: "Ideally you want an advertising campaign to be both a wife and a mistress simultaneously." In a few rare cases this can happen. The Esso tiger, PG chimps and Andrex puppy are all examples of campaigns that have lasted decades and remained relatively fresh.

In most cases the arguments for and against pensioning off your old properties will be delicately balanced. "When there is doubt, the onus of proof should be on the agents for change," said Carter. "Long-running campaigns give such benefits that they should be held innocent until proven guilty."

ALEX BENADY

Fabian's way

MALCOLM MATSON was at Mansion House on Friday for the annual dinner of the Worshipful Company of Coopers, of which he is a member, in the presence of the Lord Mayor. He then published a pamphlet along with the Fabian Society that suggested the entire Corporation of London, and the system by which Mayors and other dignitaries are elected, should be swept away. Which would rather have put the mockers on Friday's dinner, would it not? Some conflict of interest?

Not so, responds Matson. "I see no role for the Coopers Company or any other company in local government." Under his plans, the Mansion House would be available for hire by anyone. And the Coopers would be restricted to the sort of good works he and they are currently engaged in with Tower Hamlets Borough Council, providing sheltered housing. But the Fabian Society, surely, is a bit left wing to carry much weight with the Corporation? "That's your criticism of the Corporation. I would hope they aren't as bigoted as that."

"You were the one who insisted on more leg space"

☐ *THE Matson blast has stirred up Guildhall, which normally does not react publicly to criticism. Judith Mayhew, chairman of policy and resources and successor to the omnipresent Michael Cassidy, points to the 10,000 acres of land the Corporation owns or operates around London. "There is some thought that there is this huge pot of gold available," she says. "But a lot of that is tied up in open space." As well as owning most of Epping Forest and Highgate Wood, among other bits and bobs, Guildhall also operates Hampstead Heath. Given the Government's stated need to build four million new homes over the next few years, scrap the Corporation and much of this will end up with the developers, she says.*

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Ikea of the air

BARBARA CASSANI, the chief executive of the new British Airways budget airline, may regret her suggestion that this will become the Ikea of the air. Because this suggests that BA's new venture will indeed be cheap. And impossible to reach because of road works and heavy traffic. The car park will be full. You will never find the flight you want, or any staff who can tell you where it might be. And the planes, all of which will have silly names like Snörl and Flörgel, will not be customer friendly.

Name game

A NEW thriller features a beleaguered Prime Minister terrified that a scandal from his business past will ruin his career. The PM's name is Martin Taylor. You might think the lawyers would spot this one fairly early on, but this is just what has happened in Dublin. *Betrayal*, by Irish senator and academic Maurice Manning, is about an Irish Taoiseach haunted by his past — oh, the choice, the choice. Publication had to be stopped because the fictional figure in question was Thomas Mulcahy, which happens to be the name of the highly respected group chief executive of Allied Irish Banks. Now the book has finally been published, with the name changed to Jack Mulcahy.

☐ *KENNETH CLARKE gets the deputy chairmanship of BAT Industries. Other Tory grandees are gradually filling up slots in the private sector. Yesterday it was announced that Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, has lined up his own little earner, as non-executive director of the Fleming Claverhouse Investment Trust. Hurry, hurry, stocks are going fast.*

Turkish delight

THE rehabilitation of Asil Nadir: he has set up a new business in Turkey, having decided six months ago that it was safe to shift there from the outlaw state of northern Cyprus. He and four associates have put five billion Turkish lira into As-Na Holding, which means it is worth, ooh, all of £16,000. Turkey is a fellow Nato member and knocking on the doors of the EU. We have no formal extradition treaty with Turkey, but we normally exchange criminal suspects. Except for this particular bail-jumper, it seems, which only strengthens suspicions that Nadir has done some sort of deal with the Turkish Government.

MARTIN WALLER

Asil Nadir has set up a new business in his adopted country

هكذا من الأصل

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	138.27	147.34†	+ 0.50	
Do NAV to Dec 19	136.83	136.83		
UK Equity Safeguard	108.47	116.00		2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.93		
Cash	952.5[illegible]	957.33†		5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	346.90	369.00†	+ 3.40	1.74
UK Small Cos	78.51	83.96†	+ 1.00	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	95.23	101.84	+ 0.50	2.11
Consort UK Index	2139.43	2279.64†	+42.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	60.31	62.97	+ 0.30	
Monthly Inc	40.66	43.43†	- 0.30	8.80
International Funds				
American Gen	276.40	292.40†	- 3.90	
American Strat	246.77	263.92	+ 1.90	
[illegible]	2304.68	2322.97†	+44.00	4.00
European Gen	[illegible]	326.10	+ 2.30	
European Strat	131.61	140.75	+ 0.50	
Japan Gen	106.90	113.10†	- 5.10	
Asia Pacific	70.01	74.64†	+ 0.77	
Pacific Strat	113.31	121.18	- 0.60	
Greater China	209.95	224.55	- 0.30	
Latin America	92.42	98.84	- 2.60	
Intl Growth	159.02	170.07	- 1.70	
[illegible]	145.80	151.00		
Global Strategy	47.40	50.69	- 0.78	

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	800.50	851.50	+11.90	2.67
General Inc	652.30	693.90	+ 9.70	2.67
UK Growth Acc	554.40	589.70	+ 8.00	2.54
UK Growth Inc	350.50	372.80	+ 5.10	2.54
Higher Inc Acc #	1019.00	1083.00	+13.00	4.69
Higher Inc Inc #	522.90	556.20	+ 6.60	4.69
[illegible]	227.70	240.50	+ 0.60	5.73
[illegible]	94.82	100.10	+ 0.20	5.73
Nth America	409.50	435.60	+ 6.70	
Europe	418.50	445.20	+ 5.10	0.63
Brit Excell	110.70	117.70	+ 1.40	2.37
Brit Fnclnetic Acc	140.00	148.90	+ 1.50	4.67
[illegible] Inc	89.78	95.51	+ 0.91	4.67
Global Opps	105.60	112.30	+ 2.00	0.31
Balanced Acc	70.19	74.66	+ 1.02	2.56
Balanced Inc	64.21	68.30	+ 0.92	2.56
Japan Acc	33.58	35.72	- 2.27	
Pac Basin Acc	[illegible]	300.70	+ 5.60	1.59

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	140.60	149.20	+ 0.50	[illegible]
High Inc Equity	212.10	226.60†	+ 1.30	4.44
[illegible]	264.70	280.60†	+ 0.40	3.62
American Growth	496.20	529.70	+ 2.10	0.32
Asian Pacific	235.70	252.10	+ 2.70	0.95
Assets & Earnings	327.70	350.50†	+ 2.30	2.67
Euro Capital Acc	227.00	242.80	- 2.40	0.62
Extra Inc	42.54	45.25†	- 0.18	9.19
General	305.60	325.10	+ 2.20	3.02
Global Opps	73.09	77.76	+ 0.98	0.41
Japan	77.12	82.49	- 5.20	
Managed Inc	50.70	53.94†	+ 0.07	4.17
Mastertrust	177.50	189.80	+ 1.60	1.17
US Emerging Cos	210.80	225.50	+ 2.70	
Ethical	88.93	94.61	+ 0.31	1.93
International	135.90	144.60	+ 0.90	0.60
Dividend & Growth	78.72	83.74	+ 0.50	4.17
[illegible]	77.28	82.51	- 0.03	7.45
Latin America	70.44	74.94	+ 1.87	0.69
Capital Reserve	152.40	152.50		4.58

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 8500

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
N&P UK Growth	106.80	113.70	+ 1.50	2.07
Equity Income #	150.00	159.50	+ 1.40	3.92
Extra Income #	290.50	309.50	+ 2.20	4.78
Smaller Cos	102.60	109.10	+ 0.90	1.07

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	855.66	868.60		4.01
Investment Acc	4112.13	4174.27		
Fixed Int Inc	131.52	132.04		8.79
Fixed Int Acc	261.28	262.32		

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 556 8800

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bedisron Intl	93.55	98.38†		5.09
Beck Bio-Tech	38.57	[illegible]		
Acorn Ethical 1st	209.68	220.18		0.41
City Fin Assets	84.93	[illegible]	- 0.84	2.97
City Fin Intl	82.34	87.09†		0.06
Fears Hse Cap	355.07	377.73	- 2.75	[illegible]
Buckley Wrld Grth	138.06	146.34		
Stone Utilities	78.67	80.36†	+ 0.65	4.45

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	49.92	52.97	+ 0.22	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Grth	94.45	100.49	+ 1.35	
Dragon Growth	47.70	51.01	+ 1.12	1.47
Equity High Inc	109.98	118.35	+ 1.13	3.18
-do- Accum	166.00	177.00	+ 1.69	3.18
Extra Income Inc	28.30	29.80†	+ 0.16	6.47
Extra Income Acc	32.90	34.65	+ 0.20	6.47
European Grth	76.08	80.51	+ 0.69	0.14
Evergreen	34.02	36.38	+ 0.37	
General Equity	127.13	134.17	+ 1.62	2.35
Japan Growth	32.91	35.01	- 2.09	
Pentagon Grth	77.10	81.58	+ 0.73	1.61
Ped Sm Cos Inc	41.38	[illegible]	- 0.03	1.39
-do- Accum	44.56	47.15	- 0.04	1.39
Retirement Inc #	32.64	34.72	+ 0.31	5.08
Special Sits	53.04	57.03	[illegible]	2.59
UK & Overseas	64.06	67.78	+ 1.27	0.95

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
[illegible]

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	78.53	81.80	+ 1.11	3.66
Capital	95.67	99.65	+ 1.58	2.00
High Income	55.21	57.51†	+ 0.37	6.56
Top 50	68.96	71.83	+ 1.27	2.03

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	215.14	224.13†	+ 1.13	4.30
Long Gilt	49.15	51.16†	+ 0.26	5.23
Monthly Inc Plus	58.98	69.37	+ 0.40	7.55
Preference Share	54.57	56.85†	+ 0.27	6.86
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	182.40	189.14†	+ 0.88	5.39
Managed Fund	81.18	84.57†	+ 1.10	2.07
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	52.42	54.61	- 0.01	1.55
-do- Accum	62.68	65.30	- 0.02	1.55
UK & General	115.26	120.08†	+ 1.44	2.34
-do- Accum	154.46	160.91†	+ 1.92	2.34
UK Growth	231.22	240.88	+ 6.38	1.03
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	249.11	259.52	+ 2.41	0.52
Far Eastern Grth	97.33	101.29	+ 3.80	0.28
Global Bond	71.09	74.06†	+ 0.15	6.84
Japan Growth	87.60	91.26	+ 0.44	
North Amer Grth	290.76	302.90	+ 3.36	
Oriental Growth	58.77	61.23	+ 1.87	0.80
Worldwide Growth	76.42	79.61	+ 1.81	0.53
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.07	92.07†	+ 0.04	6.41
Homeowner Fund	95.89	101.90	+ 1.57	2.12
Dollar Fund	165.55	177.18	+ 2.97	1.76

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Consistent UT	39.44	42.13		2.94

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 01277 [illegible] Dealing: [illegible]

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Dist ⓓ	700.30	700.30	+ 9.80	2.02
-do- Accum ⓓ	1490.00	1490.00	+20.00	2.02
Equity Income #	121.70	121.70	+ 1.39	4.58
UK Tactical Allocn ⓓ	80.50	80.50	+ 1.38	4.74
European ⓓ	188.70	188.70	+ 1.90	0.09
Far Eastern ⓓ	161.80	161.80	+ 5.60	
Fixed Interest ⓓ	56.17	56.17	+ 0.32	7.34
Gilt ⓓ	98.34	98.34†	+ 0.38	6.09
Global Growth ⓓ	79.95	79.95	+ 1.88	0.81
Intl Bond ⓓ	48.10	48.10	+ 0.07	5.57

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japanese ⓓ	52.74	52.74†	+ 2.34	
North American ⓓ	274.20	274.20	- 2.80	
Pacific Growth ⓓ	80.27	80.27†	+ 0.65	0.26
Pacific Index ⓓ	33.08	33.56†	- 0.58	2.30
UK Index ⓓ	91.00	91.00†	+ 1.32	2.63
UK Recovery ⓓ	131.40	131.40†	+ 1.10	1.43
UK Smaller Cos ⓓ	179.73	179.76	- 0.20	1.00
US Index ⓓ	108.15	108.15	+ 1.80	0.76
European Index ⓓ	107.00	107.00	+ 1.30	[illegible]
Japan Index ⓓ	25.77	25.77	+ 1.37	
Worldwide ⓓ	108.80	108.80†	+ 1.40	1.10

LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 525

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Growth	68.65	71.28	+ 0.70	2.13

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Shares rise in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
545	407½	Allied Domecq	526	+ 4	4.8	19.1
626	385	Bulmer (HP)	430		4.3	11.7
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	48½	...	9.1	16.2
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	975	..	1.7	24.1
638	425½	Grand Met	573	+ 13	3.3	18.4
639½	424	Guinness	572	+ 16	3.4	15.7
380	280	Highland Dist	314	..	3.8	14.2
336	213	Matthew Clark	221½	..	13.5	6.6
109½	52½	Merrydown W	52½	..	7.4	13.0
2008¾	1450	SA Breweries	1468¾	+ 12½	2.5	.

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521⅞	918¾	ABN-AMRO	1185¾	+ 21¼	2.7	18.7
991½	710	Abbey Ntl	960	+ 31	3.6	15.7
770	532½	Alliance & Leic	686	+ 4	3.0	16.1
583	398½	Allied Irish	519½	+ 12	3.4	14.7
516¾	363½	Aus New Z	424¾	+ 11	4.5	
4931¼	2075	Bank America	4408¾	+ 140¾	..	
548	291½	Bank Scotland	586	+ 29	2.2	14.0
1800	978¾	Barclays	1480	+ 30	2.8	14.2
814½	577½	Bk of Ireland	782½	+ 8½	2.6	17.4
[illegible]	6006¼	Citicorp	7108¾	+ 78½	...	
[illegible]	1388¾	Commerzbk	1859½		2.8	..
862½	408	Dai Ichi Kan Yf	450½	+ 60¾	0.9	..
4593¾	2708¾	Deutsche Bk	3862½	+ 8¾	1.7	.
1300	758¾	Espirito Santo	1163¾	+ 16¾	3.0	.
947½	362	Fuji Bank Yf	418	+ 57¾	1.0	..
2388½	1272½	HSBC	1477	+ 61	3.9	12.0
2258½	1226	HSBC HK	1405	+ 59	4.1	11.4
783	507	Halifax	681	+ 4	2.7	22.9
645	483½	Irish Perm	590		2.6	16.3
860½	424	Lloyds TSB	723	+ 24	2.5	21.1
1008	669½	Nat Aust Bk	845¾	+ 7¾	4.7	.
1012½	683½	Nat West	870½	+ 15½	4.3	13.7
504½	449	Northern Rock	477½	- ½	2.4	18.8
723½	508	Ryl Bk Scot	650	+ 14	3.7	14.0
1093½	592½	Stand Chart	842	+ 20	3.0	11.2
£164¾	£76¼	Wells Fargo	£164¾	+ 78¾	1.9	.
403¾	315½	Westpac	371¼	+ 14½	4.0	
373½	267½	Woolwich	298	+ 6	3.3	17.8

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
900	695	Bass	887	+ 25½	3.8	16.6
88½	43½	Brk for the Bdr	50		4.5	10.6
205	132½	Burtonwd Brw	146	...	6.1	12.7
155½	121½	City Centre Rest	130½	...	2.4	20.3
744½	575½	Compass Gp	655½	+ ½	1.7	24.1
305	250	Eldridge P 'A'	261½		2.7	14.4
266½	221	Enterprise Inns	261	..	3.4	18.4
485	412	Fuller Sm 'A'	427½		2.9	14.9
[illegible]	310	Greenalls Gp	375	+ 10	6.3	9.3
[illegible]	610	Greene King	648½	+ 8	3.1	13.9
237½	152½	Grosvenor Inns	192½	- 1	4.1	20.1
298½	218½	Groupe Chez Gerard	277½		1.4	22.4
298½	228½	Hardy Hanson	232½		3.9	10.3
2850	2400	Hall J	2450		3.1	13.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1339½	897	Blake	1097	+ 22	1.5	21.0
227½	165½	Sec Hundred	123½	- 1	5.1	8.8
993½	708½	Smiths Indt	797	+ 17	2.8	18.7
767	595	Spirax-Sarco	601	- 1	2.9	15.6
303½	239½	Sterling Ind	249½	- 1½	5.0	12.1
698½	450	TI	506	+ 16½	3.4	16.1
120½	88½	Tinsley (E)	119½	+ 10½	6.8	10.8
120½	92½	TransTec	98½	+ 2	3.1	13.3
225½	144½	Triplex Lloyd	208½	...	4.2	15.6
77½	48½	Utd Indst	55½	- 1	5.6	14.2

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
34	24	Edinburgh Inca	25½	+ ¼		
434½	[illegible]	Edinburgh IT	356½	+ 6	3.5	31.5
134	79½	Edin Japan	88½	+ 6½		
462	312	Edin US Tr	421	+ 12	1.7	72.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	Electra Inv	492	+ 3½	2.3	46.8
[illegible]	143	Eng & Scot	152	+ 2½	2.5	39.5
422	307½	European Asset	369½	+ 4½	1.3	.
113½	52	Fidelity Asian Val	62½	+ 3½		
293½	212½	Fidelity Euro Val	278½	+ 4	0.2	.
50	26	Fidelity Jap Val	27½	+ 1½		

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
60	21½	Int Biotec Ws	20½	+ ½	...	...
99	82	Int Biotec C	82½	+ ½	...	
112	47½	INVESCO Asia	68	+ 1¼	1.5	68.8
84	40½	INVESCO Eleo	78½	.	13.9	8.8
198½	165	INVESCO Eng Inl	178½	+ 1	0.8	73.5
60½	29½	INVESCO Jap Dis	37½	+ 1½	..	..
60½	40	INVESCO Korea	40	- 1½	..	..
47	26½	INVESCO Tokyo	28½	+ 2		
120	82½	J Fry Euro U	118½	...	5.8	26.4
165½	98	JF Fledg Jap	100	+ 4½		
117½	92½	Jupiter Ex Inct	113½	+ ½	8.7	11.2
18½	3½	Jupiter Ex IncWt	12½			
60½	79½	Jupiter Gbl Cap	92½	+ ½	11.3	11.0
42	31	Jupiter Gbl Pfd	38½			
139½	102½	Jupiter Intl Gro	135	...	5.6	...

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
399½	293	Kleinwort Chrt	349½	+ 2½	2.1	51.5
118½	86½	Kleinwort E Mkt	89½	+ 1½	.	
174	153½	Kleinwort End	160	+ ½	...	
112½	74	Kleinwort H Inc	107½	+ 2	12.8	10.6
369½	261	Kleinwort O'seas	321½	+ 4½	1.6	62.3
189½	161½	Kleinwort Smlr	177		2.5	47.3
397	145	Korea-Euro	145½	+ ½	0.8	69.8
173½	98½	Latin American	112½	+ 4½		
1130	902½	Law Debenture	1047½	+ 8	3.3	31.8
132	103½	Life Oil Opp	118		..	
130	108½	Lloyds Sm Cap	123½	+ 1½	..	
25½	15½	Lloyds Sm Dir	18½	..	28.1	4.8

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
91½	30	ABI Leis	32		13.9	[illegible]
1243½	797	Airtours	1130		1.9	22.4
59½	30	Ald Leist	34		3.7	[illegible]
67½	37½	Arcadian	59½	-	2.6	24.7
22½	9½	Assoc Leis	25½		.	
167½	122½	BS Group	147½		4.5	.

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
44½	8½	St Barbara	11½	+ ½		
[illegible]	[illegible]	St Helena	195½	+ ¼	10.7	
349½	151½	Sons Gwalia	151½	- ½	6.8	10.5
227½	119	Sthern Pacific	125½	+ ½		
1853¾	868½	Southvaal	909¾	+ 40¼	11.3	8.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2268¾	- 50¾	3.5	
418	204½	WMC	211½	- 9½	3.3	17.8
27½	16	Waihi Gol Z	27	...	4.0	9.6
57½	27½	Water Hall	42½			
[illegible]	425	[illegible]	451½		4.5	15.9

MEDIA

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1939½	1431½	Daily Mail	1634½	+ 3½	1.5	31.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	Daily Mail 'A'	1728½	+ 12½	1.5	29.8
430	282½	Dorling Kindy	357½	- 7½	2.2	42.6
908	715½	EMAP	906½	+ 5	2.1	21.2
705	480	EMI	500		3.5	36.8
1127½	641½	Elsevier	937½	+ 8½	2.8	21.4
1840	1400	Euromoney Pb	1730	..	3.4	21.5
49	37	Flextech	47½		1.6	11.7
803½	502½	Flextech	594	+ ½	..	
233½	167½	GGT Group	189	...	4.1	...
232½	167½	GWR Gp	176	..	2.0	28.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	Granada Group	374		2.4	14.3
37½	24½	Goodhead	34	- 2½	1.3	17.8
345	254	HIT Entert	290	..	0.2	43.1
397½	207½	Haynes Pub	397½	...	4.9	11.9

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
22½	9½	Highbury Hse	15½			
320	180	Hodder H'line	304½	+ 2	4.1	14.0
285	231	Home Counts	240		3.0	23.5
415½	285	IBC	407½	- 1	3.0	14.2
29½	19½	Incepta	21½	- ½		12.7
407½	297½	Independent	332½		2.5	22.9
145	85	Intereuropa	123½		4.8	9.7
229½	170½	Johnston Press	211½	.	1.6	19.4
45	25	Lopex	31½		3.4	8.4
211½	191	MAID	194	- 9½		
327½	272½	Maiden	301½		2.3	18.5
45½	25½	MediaKey	34½	- 1	4.1	13.2

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	50	Jerome (S)	51		7.7	12.4
380	293	Jones Stroud	350		3.9	16.7
195	110	Lambert	195	+ 2½	5.1	13.0
186	116	Lamont	146½	+ 10	10.9	12.1
173	105	Leeds	119½		7.1	9.9
28½	21½	Lister Wise Gp	24		11.7	18.2
77	47	Lyles (S)	76		3.7	12.6
16½	7½	Maling	16½		1.5	62.9
8½	3½	PEX	3½			6.3
207½	165½	Parkland	171½	- 2	4.8	7.5
118	60	Pentland	103½	- 1	4.9	15.6
103	71	Pricerite	72		6.1	4.9

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

THE TIMES

Portfolio

£1,000 to be won

Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or share the £1,000 daily prize

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Dalgety	Food Man	
2	Capita Group	Sup Serv	
3	Sothebys	Ret Gen	
4	Clyde Blowers	Engin'ing	
5	Blick	Electronic	
6	Hoddr H'line	Media	
7	KBC Adv Tech	Oil & Gas	
8	Arjo Wiggins	Print Pap	
9	Isotron	Healthcare	
10	Assoc Nursg	Healthcare	
11	E Rand Gold	Mining	
12	Allince&Leic	Banks	
13	Wardle Strys	Div Inds	
14	South West	Water	
15	Courtld Text	Textiles	
16	Scot Med	Media	
17	Nationl Powr	Elecry	
18	WSP Group	Sup Serv	
19	Taylr Woodrw	Bld & Cons	
20	Ladbroke	Leisure	
21	RJB	Mining	
22	Dart	Transport	
23	Carltn Comm	Media	
24	Unigate	Food Man	
25	Northern	Leisure	
26	Arriva	Transport	
27	Smurfit (Jeff)	Print Pap	
28	Avis Eur	Transport	
29	Amey	Bld & Cons	
30	Black Arrw	House Gds	
31	Powll Duffryn	Div Inds	
32	Br Steel	Engin'ing	
33	LASMO	Oil & Gas	
34	Lonrho	Div Inds	
35	Meyer Int	Bld Mats	
36	Kingfisher	Ret Gen	
37	IMI	Engin'ing	
38	CLS Hldgs	Property	
39	Woolwich	Banks	
40	Morrisn (W)	Ret Food	
41	EMAP	Media	
42	Southampton	Leisr	
43	Davis Serv	Sup Serv	
44	Nthn Foods	Food Man	

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Portfolio

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DAILY DIVIDEND

+44

Claims required for +44 pts

Claimants should ring
0171-481 3385
between 9.30am-3pm

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals to match the weekly dividend published in the *Sunday Times* to win £5,000.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly accumulator total	

Two winners shared the prize yesterday, each receiving £500. They are: S Ludlam London; J Carter Berkhamsted Herts.

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Court of Appeal — Law Report November 18 1997 — Court of Appeal

Failure to comply with order

Star News Shops v Stafford Refrigeration Ltd: UPO (UK) Ltd and Another (Third Parties); Unité Hermetique (Fourth Party)

Before Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment October 30]

It was wrong in principle to strike out a party's defence for breach of a non-peremptory order although Order 24, rule 16(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court did give jurisdiction to make such an order.

Where a party had failed to comply with a bare order for discovery, not expressed as a final or "unless" order, the proper order was to grant an extension of time expressed in an "unless" order.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal against a decision of Judge Gibbs in Birmingham District Registry by the fourth party, Unité Hermetique, against the dismissal of its defence to fourth party proceedings brought by the third parties, UPO (UK) Ltd, and its associated company, Asko Oy.

The judge's orders were quashed and judgment against the fourth party set aside.

The third parties had supplied a refrigeration unit to the defendant for installation into the plaintiffs' shop premises where it had caught fire. The fourth party had supplied the compressor to the third parties, who alleged that the compressor was responsible for the fire.

In an action for damages for breach of contract and negligence arising from a fire in a refrigeration unit supplied to the plaintiffs, the defence to a fourth party notice was dismissed under Order 24 rule 16(1) for failure to comply with an order for specific discovery not expressed in final or "unless" form. Judgment was given for the third parties.

In the main action, judgment was given for the plaintiffs, and for the defendant against the third parties. Liability for damages therefore rested with the fourth party, which appealed against the dismissal of its defence.

Order 24, rule 16 provides: (1) If any party who is required by any of the foregoing rules, or by any order made thereunder, to make discovery of documents ... fails to comply ... the court may make such order as it thinks just including, in particular, an order that the action be dismissed or ... an order that the defence be struck out and judgment be entered accordingly."

Mr Ronald Walker, QC and Mr Alexander Hill-Smith for the fourth party; Mr Michael de Navarro, QC, for the third parties.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that the effect of the judge's order was to debar the fourth party from advancing an arguable defence and left it vulnerable to the outcome of the main action and the third party proceedings.

To do so was a misuse of the power within Order 24 rule 16(1). That order did not secure compliance relating to discovery but punished the fourth party for not having complied with a "bare" order in time. The circumstances were not so exceptional as to justify such an order.

At the hearing, the third parties should have asked for an order striking out the defence unless within a certain time the fourth party had produced a discovery.

That would then have become a peremptory order of the court which, if not ultimately complied with would have justified the ultimate sanction.

The fact that discovery was not yet complete and that there was no evidence justifying the default were not sufficient reason for imposing the sanction of strike out.

The order for discovery made in this case was not peremptory. In *Hytec Information Systems Ltd v Coventry City Council (The Times* December 31, 1996) Lord Justice Auld described an "unless" order as "the end of the line for a party who has failed to comply with it".

The fourth party had not reached the end of the line merely because it failed to comply with one previous order which was not a final or "unless" order.

Although Order 24, rule 16(1) gave the judge jurisdiction to make the order, he none the less erred in principle in striking out a defence for breach of a non-peremptory order. He should have made a final or "unless" order and plainly exercised his discretion wrongly.

The judge had an inherent power to make an "unless" order in the absence of a specific application supported by affidavit. When considering the third parties' application the judge was required to consider the fourth party's position and had power to grant any necessary extension.

It would not have been appropriate to deny the fourth party an extension, where the denial would deprive it of the right to defend itself, because of a procedural default which, even if unjustifiable, caused the third parties no prejudice which could not be compensated by an award of costs.

Lord Justice Walker agreed.

Solicitors: Hextall Erskine; Watmores.

Council cannot change school in statement

Regina v Havering London Borough Council, Ex parte K

Before Mr Justice Sedley

[Judgment August 20]

Once a particular school had been specified in a child's special educational needs statement, it was not open to the education authority in deciding whether or not it should provide school transport for the child to take the view that the child's needs would be met at other nearer schools.

Want of transport was capable of being an unavoidable cause within the terms of section 444(7) of the Education Act 1996 for the absence of a child from a boarding school.

However, in the instant case, the fact that the child's mother found it impossible because of business problems to take the child to and from school did not amount in law to an "unavoidable cause" so as to make it incumbent on the council to consider it necessary to provide transport under section 509(1) of the 1996 Act, since it affected the child only secondarily.

Mr Justice Sedley so held in the Queen's Bench Division on application by the mother of a child aged 10, quashing by way of judicial review the refusal of Havering London Borough Council on April 25 and July 25, 1997 to grant the child assistance with travel to school.

Section 444 of the 1996 Act provides: "(1) If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, his parent is guilty of an offence...

"(7) In proceedings for an offence under this section in respect of a child who is a boarder at the school at which he is a registered pupil, the child shall be taken to have failed to attend regularly at the school if he is absent from it without leave during any part of the school term at a time when he was not prevented from being present by reason of sickness or any unavoidable cause."

Section 509 provides: "(1) A local education authority shall make such arrangements for the provision of transport and otherwise as they consider necessary, or as the secretary of state may direct, for the purpose of facilitating the attendance of persons receiving education — (a) at schools...".

Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC and Mr Clive Rawlings for the applicant; Mr Nigel Giffin for the council.

MR JUSTICE SEDLEY said the special education needs statement relating to a severely dyslexic boy aged 10 had provided that he would attend as a weekly boarder at a specified school on the Kent coast, the mother to be responsible for transport to and from the school at her own expense.

The local authority had opposed the statement on the basis that any of three mainstream schools in Havering was adequate for the boy.

The mother eventually found it impossible to comply with the transport requirement and called on the local authority to make provision instead. The local authority declined to provide the boy with transport, on the basis that the statement explicitly made the mother responsible.

The mother took the issue to the school attendance panel which decided that the council had no duty to provide transport under section 324(5) or under sections 44 and 509 of the Education Act 1996 since the boy could be accommodated in local schools.

The panel had refused to make a discretionary grant of free transport or a contribution to the cost of transport and the mother had sought judicial review of that decision.

In his Lordship's judgment, the choice by the special educational needs tribunal of the specified school was not predicated, dependent or conditional on the mother's providing transport so that the statement of special educational needs was not undone by the mother's inability to do so.

The mother had been accorded a proper opportunity to put her side of the case to the attendance panel although she had not been allowed to be present.

The term "unavoidable cause" in section 444(7) of the 1996 Act was capable of including want of transport. However, the mother's inability to provide transport did not amount in law to an "unavoidable cause" so as to make it incumbent on the council to consider it necessary to provide transport under section 509(1) of the 1996 Act, since it affected the child only secondarily.

The school attendance panel had taken its decision on the basis that the child could and should be at one of the three mainstream schools in Havering. It had no right to do so, and since its conclusion was based on extraneous considerations it should be quashed and the decision retaken.

Solicitors: Ashok Patel & Co, Balham; Mr Michael J. Tink, Havering.

Enforcing local planning policy

Regina v Leominster District Council, Ex parte Pothecary

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment October 28]

Whether or not a development was in accordance with local planning policy for the purposes of section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, was a matter for the local planning authority and not a question of law for the court on judicial review.

Furthermore, a planning authority was entitled to consider the likelihood of enforcement action at the time when an application for retrospective planning permission for a building erected without planning permission was before it and to take into account the existence of the unlawfully erected building as a point in favour of granting permission.

The Court of Appeal so stated, inter alia, allowing an appeal by the local planning authority, Leominster District Council, from the decision of Mr Malcolm Spence, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on January 16, 1997, whereby he granted an application for judicial review by Patricia Pothecary and quashed the authority's decision to grant retrospective planning permission for a winter lambing shed on a neighbouring property.

The applicant lived at Longford House. Bordering on the curtilage of the house was Mousenatch Farm. Both properties were within the Kingsland Conservation Area. The operations at the farm included sheep farming.

In 1995 a livestock shed made of steel and wood was erected without planning permission close to the boundary of Longford House with its long side running approximately parallel with the curtilage boundary and between 10 and 20 metres from it.

Furthermore, a concrete apron around the shed was laid which abutted the curtilage of the applicant's land, the back garden of Longford House. The authority did not serve an enforcement notice but invited an application for retrospective planning consent for its retention. The authority granted permission on condition that the shed was to be used for winter lambing only and that it was not to be used for any other purpose whatever without the written consent of the authority.

Section 54A provides: "Where, in making any determination under the Planning Acts, regard was to be had to the development plan, the determination shall be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise."

Miss Nathalie Lieven for the authority; Mr Ian Dove for the applicant.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that the applicant's case was, inter alia, that the authority when deciding to grant permission gave weight to a factor to which it was not entitled to give weight, namely that the lambing shed had already been built.

In *Edinburgh City Council v Secretary of State for Scotland (The Times* October 31, 1997), a case concerned with the Scottish equivalent of section 54A, Lord Clyde discussed the impact of section 54A on the duties of the planning authority and what the approach of the court ought to be on any judicial review application. What Lord Clyde said, in his Lordship's judgment, represented the law of England as well as that of Scotland.

Lord Clyde had said: "The section has not touched the well established distinction in principle between those matters which are properly within the jurisdiction of the decision maker and those matters in which the court can properly intervene. It has introduced a requirement with which the decision maker must comply namely the recognition of the priority to be given to the development plan.

"It had thus introduced a potential ground on which the decision maker could be faulted were he to fail to give effect to that requirement. But beyond that it still leaves the assessment of the facts and the weighing of the considerations in the hands of the decision maker. It was for him to assess the relative weight to be given to all the material considerations..."

Was the council entitled to have regard to the existence of the lambing shed? The court was told that there was no authority on the point. The judge did not need to deal with it, in view of his finding that the grant of permission was illegal on the ground of irrationality, and did not do so. It was common ground that the planning committee took into account the existence of the unlawfully erected shed in its present site as a point in favour of granting permission.

Mr Dove submitted that the effect of that was to give an advantage to a person who had acted, consciously or unconsciously, in defiance of planning laws over persons who kept to the law. The policy of the law should be to discourage that. In broad terms his Lordship agreed. The court had stated as much in many cases touching illegal immigrants.

Mr Dove went on to submit that the authority erred in law in giving the existence of the unlawfully erected shed any weight whatsoever in favour of the grant of planning permission for its retention. His Lordship disagreed for the following reasons.

The essential question for the authority in the present case was "given that winter lambing on the site is a permissible activity, is the actual and potential increase in adverse effects on Longford House resulting from the conditional permission which we are minded to grant such that we ought to grant it?"

The background to a consideration of that question was to compare what would happen if permission were granted, with what would happen if permission were refused?

The planning advantages flowing from a grant of permission would be that if the activity was not confined to a specific part of the year and specific animals, enforcement action for breach of condition could be taken against it.

A significant, although not the only, disadvantage of the grant of permission would be that the shed itself could not be the subject of enforcement action. If, however, the shed were going to be allowed to remain there any how even if permission were refused then that disadvantage inherent in any grant of planning permission would disappear.

So it was relevant for the authority to ask: "Are we of the view that it is expedient that the existing shed be pulled down?" The question was phrased that way because the only presently relevant way that the authority could secure the pulling down of the shed was by the issue of an enforcement notice.

His Lordship therefore rejected the submission that a planning authority was never entitled to consider the likelihood of enforcement action at the time when the application for retrospective planning permission for a building erected without planning permission was before it.

It was not rare that buildings were put up without the appropriate planning permission. Sometimes there was no planning objection at all. Sometimes there was an insuperable objection. There were many situations between the two ends of a continuum.

There were situations where the authority would not have given permission for the development if asked for permission for precisely that which had been built, but the development was not so objectionable that it was reasonable to require it to be pulled down.

To require that would be a disproportionate sanction for the breach of the law concerned. That was why Parliament had imposed the requirement of expediency.

What weight the authority gave to the existence of the building was a matter for the authority. There were policy reasons of the type identified by Mr Dove for not giving much weight to the existence of a building put up without the necessary planning permission but those would not prevail in every case, only in some.

His Lordship accepted that an authority might say that it was presently inexpedient to issue an enforcement notice but it wanted to keep its options open and see how things developed.

In such a case the existence of the building could hardly weigh in favour of the applicant for retrospective planning permission for to grant it would result in the authority no longer keeping its options open.

However, there could equally be cases where the authority could say that, while it would not have granted the permission for that precise building there, it was not expedient to require it to be pulled down. Circumstances varied infinitely.

Lord Justice Robert Walker and Lord Justice Simon Brown gave judgments agreeing with Lord Justice Schiemann.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard; Daniels Ferraby & Co, Tewkesbury.

Specifying nuisance

Lowe and Another v South Somerset District Council

Although abatement notices should set out the act constituting the nuisance, there was no requirement that such a notice should specify whether the nuisance was one prejudicial to public health or was common law nuisance.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Gage) so held on July 7 in refusing the application of John Lowe and Sandra Lowe for judicial review by way of certiorari to quash a notice issued by South Somerset District Council under section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which required them to abate the crowing of cockerels and the chorus of waterfowl at their smallholding.

MR JUSTICE GAGE said that the applicants submitted that the section 80 abatement notice specifying statutory nuisance was to go further and say which of two types of nuisance were alleged.

Section 79(1)(g) distinguished between two different types of nuisance. The first was nuisance prejudicial to public health and the second was nuisance at common law.

His Lordship preferred the council's submission that the point was covered by statute. What was important was that the acts of nuisance were set out in the notice.

BRIEFINGS

A campaign to persuade small businesses that profits can be improved by protecting the environment is being launched in London today. The World Wide Fund for Nature and NatWest Bank have developed the Better Business Pack, giving practical guidance on green issues. The organisers claim that the UK's small and medium-size businesses can cut out nearly nine million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year while making a saving of more than £1.5 million. The four key areas are waste, utilities, transport and the supply chain. Summaries and a quick-start guide are available from WWF-UK on 01483 412487. For the complete pack costing £55 call 01753 643104.

☐ About 43 per cent of small business owners have not considered who will succeed them on their death or retirement, says a survey conducted for Business Pages among 500 companies with annual turnovers below £5 million. Almost all said day-to-day issues and survival took precedence over planning. A checklist prepared by Business Pages and the Federation of Small Businesses includes advice on planning early.

☐ Barclays Bank has this week opened a treasury centre in Paris to provide medium-sized firms with access to financial markets. Exporters to Europe will be offered advice on interest-rate and exchange-rate risks. The bank has already set up regional treasury centres in Britain — at Reading for the South, Coventry for the Midlands and Wales, Manchester for the North and Scotland, and in London.

☐ A guide to help busy managers to plan and manage their careers has been produced by the Institute of Management. *Practical Self-Development* costs £8, or £6 for members. Call 0345 023736.

Brewery venture goes flat for marketing whiz-kid

Mark Andrews on a business idea that failed to ferment in UK

MICK GELL

Toby Mynott put in £55,000 of his own money but saw the business wound up within 12 months

ON A business trip to Toronto, Toby Mynott, a marketing whiz-kid, picked up what he thought was a great, money-making idea. He had seen crowds flocking to a micro-brewery offering advice and facilities to Canadians to brew their own brand of beer. A do-it-yourself brewery where the beer was cheap, tasty and a bit of a novelty.

Home in Canterbury, he found ideal premises in a back street, put in £55,000 of his own money — all he had — and raised a few more thousand from professional investors and venture capitalists.

It was not going to make him a fortune, but he was in business. The Great Stour Brewery was born. Mr Mynott, 37, said: "It was working well in Canada and I saw no reason why it shouldn't work here".

In February 1996 he was up and running. The feedback from earlier customers was very positive and he quickly built up a faithful following. "Although we had thousands of inquiries in those early weeks they didn't turn into business."

Less than 12 months after he started brewing, the business was wound up with losses all round. So, what went wrong? Just about everything, it seems. A good idea in North America does not automatically transfer successfully to Europe. Mr Mynott says the quality of the beer brewed was not an issue, but overheads were much higher than had been anticipated and income was lower. "I remember one of the venture capitalists saying to me: 'Toby, you'll know within three months whether or not it will work.' He was absolutely right. We had a crisis board meeting. We looked at the figures, decided it hadn't worked, and began the process of winding up the company. It was as quick as that."

Mr Mynott, now working successfully as a consultant, has this advice for those who want to strike out on their own. "There's no golden rule, but talk to plenty of people about your ideas. Some will be critical, others constructive. Some will be interested and give you realistic feedback. But the decision is yours — and you can't vacillate.

"I'm not bitter about what happened, but I did feel battered. It shakes one's confidence and I'm not quite as bouncy as I once was. I didn't feel humiliated, just an immense sadness and tiredness when I left the brewery for the last time.

"Would I do it again? Not if I knew the result was going to be disaster. I enjoyed the experience, but looking back there was an element of not being fully prepared. Having a good idea is not enough. I made basic mistakes. For a start Canterbury is less than 30 miles from cheap Calais booze. So there's not much incentive to brew your own.

"If it had been up North, Liverpool, Sunderland or Manchester, where they take their beer and money seriously, I think I would have stood a good chance. But being good at marketing is not enough — you need a financial manager, who's pragmatic, non-optimistic and looks purely at the financial picture."

Record number of overseas exhibitors at inventions fair

By Clare Stewart

AN ATOMIC motor, a doorstep anti-flood device and easy-fit snowchains for car tyres are among 200 new products being shown at the London International Inventions Fair, which runs from November 27 to 30 at the Barbican Exhibition Centre.

Together with UK inventors, the fair, the organisers say, will also include the largest number yet of overseas entrepreneurs coming to London to find development finance and marketing partners.

Several Polish universities will be represented, demonstrating new scientific and medical developments. There will also be inventors from South Africa, the US, Denmark, Finland and Italy.

Among the UK inventors is John Gilbert, who is showing his patented fibre-optic viewing system. Mr Gilbert says it is a low-cost and versatile system, with applications from security systems and monitoring to use within vehicles to improve all-round visibility, especially when parking or manoeuvring.

The wide range of products and ideas on show includes a lightweight electrically powered vehicle; a miniaturised solar battery unit, a cheaper and greener alternative to conventional batteries; leisure products such as new board games; an adjustable wind turbine and, among the diverse selection from Poland, a new type of bullet-proof and knife-proof vest.

David Melton, managing director of Sterling Safety, who has developed a number of successful fire-detection products, is a regular exhibitor at the fair and says such events "provide a wonderful platform" for inventors who, all too often, are dismissed as "loonies working in garden sheds".

Mr Melton says that exhibiting can bring useful contacts and much valuable advice as well as constructive criticism.

Kane Kramer launched his new product at the fair held in March. Since then it has taken off dramatically. His company, Metal Paint, created a water-based paint that uses powdered metal to give a range of hardwearing metal finishes when applied to surfaces ranging from plastic to concrete.

The product won the top innovation award at the show and now, eight months later, is being distributed in 30 countries. Mr Kramer says that the success of the paint since March has been "unbelievable".

The fair is being run in conjunction with the International Business Opportunities Exhibition. There are also workshops offering advice on patenting and developing and financing new product ideas.

For further details, call Sphinx Exhibitions on 01202 762252.

Start-ups at highest for seven years

By Rodney Hobson

BUSINESS start-ups are running at a seven-year high, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales says. The total is 11.5 per cent up on a year ago.

The institute's figures, covering the first half of 1997, also showed that business failures were down 12 per cent to their lowest level since 1990.

However, the institute fears that growth and development among smaller companies could be jeopardised because most have no clear strategy, no written business plan and no set growth targets.

Richard Longley, chairman of the Institute's enterprise group, says: "The 'feel-good' factor is very apparent among small amd medium companies, not least due to the positive political mood. Equally evident, however, is the concern among chartered accountants who advise these businesses that many of them are embarking on their expedition into the commercial arena without a map or even a clear destination in mind."

Mr Longley says that the support network is "unclear", with the role of government and other official bodies not communicated or explained.

The intended co-ordinating role of Business Links "is not yet fully established" and many small businesses express reservations about using support agencies even when they are aware of them, he adds.

"There'll be another one exploding if I'm not paid by then!"

Charities gain expert advice through consultancy

By Brian Collett

SMALL financial advisers are being encouraged by an unusual consultancy to sell their services to charities.

Edward Jewson Services to Charities was created in 1992 to put professional services businesses in touch with voluntary groups, which are often run with good intentions but scant knowledge of finance, the law and other aspects of management. Mr Jewson said: "I have tried to acquire a panel of specialists, many of them experts in their field, to provide something of value to charities."

One particularly useful service is given by the Cost Reduction Partnership, a small business that seeks the lowest prices for supplies. The Jewson consultancy service is free to the charities. The professional businesses charge the charities for their work and pay a commission to the Jewson company. Much of the business consists of investment advice through Jewson's Investment brokerage. Charities that want to review their investments receive proposals from about six financial companies in the Jewson stable to compare with the performance of their existing brokers and managers.

The Jewson company, a four-man operation at Wacton, near Norwich, has put services businesses in touch with more than 50 charities. Mr Jewson said: "Our company is the first of its kind, a one-stop shop, saving time and money for charities."

☐ Late payment of grants and other funds is undermining charities, says research by the Charities Aid Foundation and NatWest. It finds that 25 per cent of charities have limited access — or none at all — to specialised financial skills.

هكذا من الاصل

BRIEFLY NOTED

Western aisles

■ **MUSIC:** A gala on Saturday inaugurated the £5.7 million Hall for Cornwall, a project that has converted the 150-year-old shell of the old City Hall in Truro into a 1,000-seat performing space: concert hall, rock venue and theatre rolled into one. Built with funds from the lottery, Europe, and local donations, the hall will offer mixed fare: the opening concert was a classical affair conducted by Sir David Willcocks, but future attractions range from the Rambert Dance Company and English Touring Opera to the Band of the Coldstream Guards and Danny La Rue.

■ **SCULPTURE:** Those old copies of *Punch* may be banished from waiting rooms for ever, if dentists follow the example of Edinburgh's new Dental Institute. Opened last Thursday at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, the Institute has commissioned four installation artists to brighten up patients' visits. Stephen Skrynka, for instance, has created a wall from transparencies of popcorn which are described as "teasingly reminiscent of teeth", while Anita Wohlén has embedded bite marks (taken from institute staff and the general public) into walls, and added "steel cut-outs, reminiscent of fillings" into a "gum-pink rubber floor". For this the Scottish Arts Council paid £118,000 of lottery money. Whether the installations soothe patients' nerves or set their teeth on edge remains to be seen.

■ **THEATRE:** The Old Vic has been temporarily reprieved — for a laugh. Instead of going dark on December 6 when the Peter Hall Company's season comes to a close, the theatre — which has been put up for sale by its Canadian owners Ed and David Mirvish — will stay open until January 3, as the Russian clown Slava Polunin plays a three-week Christmas season with his company. West End insiders see the booking as a hopeful sign that the Mirvishes will not sell the theatre immediately.

■ **MUSEUMS:** After 26 years in Burlington Gardens off Piccadilly, the Museum of Mankind is to close on December 31. That will allow the British Museum's Department of Ethnography, which runs the place, to pack up the 300,000 items ready for their return to the main BM site in Bloomsbury, where new permanent galleries are being prepared.

Mary not so contrary

POP

Mary J. Blige
Wembley Arena

It is not only the Spice Girls who get booed off-stage. It happened to Mary J. Blige the first time she played London. But that was four years and several million album sales ago and, while the self-styled "queen of hip hop soul" remains a famously petulant interviewee, her stage manner at Wembley Arena on Saturday was little short of gushing. "Thank you London for all your support," she said. "Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you."

In truth, the moments when she could have said anything more were few and far between. From the minute Blige came marching on stage amid a fusillade of exploding fireworks, wearing little more than a dark blue corset, knee-length boots and wraparound shades, there was scarcely a pause in this tightly scripted rollercoaster of a show.

Songs were telescoped one into another, giving that vaguely unsettling impression, endemic to the soul revue format, that the performers could never quite be bothered to get to the end of anything. And during Blige's frequent costume changes, the baton was immediately picked up by either her trio of backing singers or an energetic MC who exhorted us all to get out and buy Blige's current album, while hurling copies of it into the front rows.

Subtlety, then, is not Blige's forte. With a Manhattan skyline as the backdrop, she and her four ever-present dancers armed themselves with walking sticks and waltzed up and down a flight of steps as if in a Broadway musical during *I'm Goin' Down*. To signal the softer mood of *Everything* she changed into a white jumpsuit and sang the song literally up to her neck in dry ice.

Yet despite all the glamour and glitz, Blige retained a perceptible frisson of street credibility. While most black artists have lost touch with their original core audience by the time they are mainstream enough to play a venue as big as Wembley, Blige's crowd was still 50 per cent black. The mixture of hip hop, swingbeat and funk rhythms which underpinned numbers such as *Reminisce* and *Love is all We Need* gave her music a strong contemporary urban feel. And, most importantly, Blige's voice retained the throaty, frayed-at-the-edges quality and gospel singer's range which has earned her all those flattering comparisons with the queen of (real) soul, Aretha Franklin, no less.

But Franklin also has a repertoire of truly great songs and, while Blige performed with fierce conviction, there was nothing in this set that could muster either the melodic clarity or emotional punch of such classics as *Respect* or *Think* or *Chain of Fools*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Good, but no Aretha Franklin, Mary J. Blige worked her socks off at Wembley Arena

About the blues

Ali Farka Toure
Festival Hall

The West African guitarist Ali Farka Toure hails from Timbuktu and is best known for the Grammy-award winning album he made with Ry Cooder, an atmospheric concoction of traditional rhythms, deep blues and glistening guitar work. A legendary figure in his native Mali, he is being urged to use his fame and prestige to take up a career as a reforming politician in what remains a deeply traditional society. "Ali was born to lead," Cooder told me, and on stage he is a commanding, charismatic figure.

He gave a compelling performance of the African blues, a fascinating lesson in the cross-fertilisation of two cultures, sharing an ancient commonality but ripped asunder by history. The blues of the American delta was born out of the tribal music carried in the slave ships, and Ali combines African roots with an acute awareness of its development in the cotton plantations.

Accompanied only by Oumou Toure on percussion and Hamadoun Boucon on backing vocals, he used the simplest elements to build a hypnotic and mesmerising sound. He began on electric guitar, favouring a fuzzy tone on a series of high and brittle solos, picking out the simple and insistent bass lines at the same time. The slow blues of *Ai Du* perfectly illustrated the music's journey as Ali fused John Lee Hooker's metronomic style with passionate African vocals.

He switched to an acoustic guitar for the nimble patterns of *Gomni* and *Amandrai*, taken from the *Talking Timbuktu* album he made with Cooder, rhythmically sparse yet polished until they sparkled. He sings in a variety of West African languages, including Songhai and Bambara, and spoke to the audience at length in a Creole French which was almost as impenetrable. Yet the vocabulary of his music is universal. Towards the end he switched to the njarka, a one-stringed traditional bowed instrument often described as a West African precursor of the violin, an achingly timeless sound which again spoke of the tribal influences on American blues.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS

Finnish fire

LSO/Davis
Barbican

Everyone knew that, after Sir Colin Davis's revelatory Sibelius with the London Symphony Orchestra five years ago during the Barbican's Tender is the North festival, the cycle would be back before long. It has returned in time to celebrate Finland's 80th year of independence, and as part of the Barbican's Valo festival of Finnish music and the arts which opened on Sunday.

Sir Colin's is indeed huge, celebratory Sibelius forged, it seems, in the very fire of Finland's great mythic blacksmith, Ilmarinen. The First Symphony seems even broader in its tempos, deeper in its resonances than it did in 1992; and the LSO more instinctive and even more enthusiastic in its response to Davis's sentient grading of textures, and his formidable control of pacing.

In the face of such full-hearted performances, anything less than total generosity of spirit in response might seem out of place. And yet. Since that first cycle, those who care deeply about Sibelius will have observed Osmo Vänskä's way with the symphonies, both on disc and with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and will have meditated on Paavo Berglund's continuing clear-sighted wisdom. Vänskä, in particular, has shown that the composer's metronome markings in the first movement of the First Symphony are both viable and exciting. After Andrew Marriner's matchless opening clarinet solo on Sunday night, the great tremulous upbeat into the *Allegro energico* simply did not thrill as it can in a tauter performance.

Speed alone, of course, is not all. What distinguishes Davis's Sibelius is the thinking behind the tempo. And he brings to this symphony the full weight of Tchaikovskian recollection: Sibelius, after all, was deeply moved by a Helsinki performance of the *Pathétique* just a year before he wrote his own First Symphony. But this is not Tchaikovsky. In the very making of his music — in its inexorable organic growth, its tonal ambivalence, in the tough outworking of its static and dynamic principles — Sibelius seems to brace himself against life. And when a conductor braces himself against the music, we perhaps come closest to the heart of Sibelius.

This was nevertheless quite some evening, after quite some day. Since 10am the LSO had held a Sibelius Discovery Day. When that ended, the Valo festival was opened with a fanfare for brass, wind and percussion by the Finnish composer Kimmo Hakola. And finally, Sibelius's Second Symphony surged forward, with the successive climaxes of its finale made all the more powerful by the biting string articulation which fired them.

HILARY FINCH

Blissful union

BBCPO/Elder
Manchester

Few conductors would want to make a speciality of Strauss's *Symphonia Domestica*. Even fewer could reasonably hope to make a success of it. Against all the odds Mark Elder has conducted that massive score with two of our leading orchestras in less than three years. And he has twice made a success of it.

The performance with the BBC Philharmonic in Bridgewater Hall was even better than the one with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. It was not a matter of the respective qualities of the two orchestras: both of them can make a virtuoso job of a scoring like this. The difference on this occasion was that the structure was so much more convincing, with no falling-away at the end.

As much as half a concert contained in one continuous movement (though conceived in three clearly defined sections), the *Symphonia Domestica* requires long-term thinking and a sustained effort in concentration. At the same time it is packed with the most extravagantly picturesque detail which is so brilliantly done that there is a constant danger of being tempted away from structural virtue. While retaining both the baby and the bath water, Mark Elder concentrated on characterisation — where he was assisted by a particularly eloquent solo violin, an expressive oboe d'amore and an heroic trumpet — on the fundamental emotional inspiration and on the prolonged celebration of domestic happiness at the end.

As on the Birmingham occasion, Elder introduced the *Symphonia Domestica* with a romantic overture and a Beethoven Concerto. Out of its context, the prelude to the last act of Humperdinck's *Königskinder* made little sense. The performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto in G made very much more sense, in spite of the shallow-sounding piano on which it was played. Alfredo Perl's interpretation is, as yet, incomplete but it is an uncommon achievement.

GERALD LARNER

A subdued artists' procession

OPERA

Opera Gala
Albert Hall

IMPROVISATION was in the air on the opening night of the Royal Opera's short stay at the Albert Hall. *Nights of the Stars* was rebilled as *A Gala Evening of Opera*, which was just as well because not all the artists originally announced were present.

The young Italian tenor, Fabio Armiliato, due to make his company debut, was a last-minute cancellation. Fortunately José Cura, already well established on the international circuit, was on hand and prepared to add to the number of arias he was already scheduled to sing. Appropriately, he took over Andrea Chénier's *improviso* from Armiliato and in Giordano's opera provided the most stirring singing of the evening. Cura, bold in his vocal attack and ready to flood the music with emotion, is a natural in this part.

He was also the star, carrying the personality and the volume to take on the wastes of the Albert Hall. He got proceedings off to fine start with *Cielo e mar* from *Gioconda* and closed them in equally ringing style with *Tu qui, Santuzza* from *Cavalleria*. In the latter he was joined by Agnes Baltsa, who proved much more adept as Mascagni's heroine then she had been earlier in the *Veil Song* from *Don Carlos*.

Her fellow Greek, Irene Carli, a young soprano, was bold enough to tackle the close of Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*. There is plenty of promise there, but the voice is hardly of Albert Hall dimensions yet, especially in so taxing a piece.

The other performers were mainly drawn from the *Otello* casts Covent Garden is fielding this week and they prowled around the pillars of Timothy O' Brien's set with varying success. Zvetlina Vasileva revealed fine-spun tone in her two arias (Puccini and Cilea), Alexandru Agache rougher edges in his pair (Giordano and Verdi). Giuseppe Giacomini had a distinctly unhappy time as Leoncavallo's Canio.

The evening lacked structure. The procession of artists each doing their piece before exiting was the musical equivalent of a fashion parade. Sometimes the clothes fitted and sometimes they did not. Jacques Delacôte and the ROH Orchestra had a very subdued time, suggesting their minds were on *Otello*. Luckily Cura was at hand to raise the temperature at intervals.

JOHN HIGGINS

Airy-fairy art of the Victorians

Richard Cork finds drug-fuelled fantasies and shameless exuberance on show at the Royal Academy

High on the Victorian equivalent of a designer drug, the artist lapses into a hallucinatory dream. Around his head, lolling on a plush crimson cushion, a gaggle of Bosch-like hobgoblins prance and leer. One grotesque elf offers him a potion foaming with vapours. But the painter has no need of further cocktails. He is lost in a world of feverish fantasies, and the garlanded fairy at their centre looks at him with an indulgent, enticing smile.

John Anster Fitzgerald, who portrayed himself in this small yet turbulent picture, made fairy painting his forte. But he was far from alone in depicting the supernatural. By 1857, when *The Artist's Dream* was executed, the occult had become a Victorian craze. Reacting against industrialisation, Darwinism and other modern horrors, a surprising number of laudanum-drowsy painters found solace in fairyland. The Royal Academy has brought together their intoxicated offerings in a Sackler Wing exhibition. Ridiculed for much of the present century, they now threaten to become a *fin-de-siècle* fad for anyone recoiling from the grimmer realities of our own age.

But we should be careful to discriminate between the *magical and the meretricious*. Shakespeare, who was instrumental in creating an appetite for midsummer madness, spawned an alarming diversity of images. At their best, they can boast an achievement as sublime as Turner's *Queen Mab's Cave*. Dissolving in a *haze of sunset light, the cave* itself is even harder to discern than the classical ruins balanced so precariously on the rocky heights above. But the overall aura is mysterious enough, and Turner has the wisdom to stop short of giving his fairies over-specific form.

Most of them remain mercifully indistinct, unlike the figures in other paintings on the same wall. On one side, William B. Essex's *Puck* pays dim-witted homage to a Reynolds picture of the same subject. He turns Shakespeare's imp into an irritating child who, with his coy grin and elongated ears, waves at us in a rush of self-satisfaction. On the other side, Theodore van Holst becomes still more simpering. His *Fairy Lovers* trip through a moonlit glade. Their embrace is cloying. Only the female's winged headdress introduces a more acerbic note, threatening to dislodge the absurd, overblown flower teetering on the man's head.

Some of the most celebrated 19th-century artists were not suited to fairy matters. When Landseer turned his attention away from *The Stag at Bay* and *The Monarch of the Glen*, he tried hard to paint *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with conviction. After all, he had been invited to contribute a Shakespearean decoration to the dining room of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's London house. But Landseer's Titania looks far too like a plump Victorian model, and he handles Bottom's ass-head with painfully dogged naturalism.

Brunel would have been better advised to plump for Sir Joseph Noel Paton's response to the same play. His *The Reconciliation of Oberon and Titania* is a precocious showpiece. Painted when he was only 26, it sets the reunited lovers in a wood teeming with nimble, sex-hungry sprites. Whether suspended in space with lyre and pipes, entwined in athletic dalliance or tumbling in an ecstatic loop of winged energy above Bottom's slumped body, they prove just how liberated Paton felt during his excursion into irrationality. In 1847 he entered the painting for a fresco competition in Westminster Hall, and won a £300 prize. When Paton exhibited in his native Scotland a pendant painting, of Oberon and Titania's quarrel, Lewis Carroll was so enraptured that he took the trouble to count 165 fairies among its frolicking hordes.

> ❛ Lovers set in a wood teeming with nimble, sex-hungry sprites ❜

Paton's exuberant images must have helped John Anster Fitzgerald to break away from the stiffness of his early genre scenes. But Fitzgerald went further, jettisoning Paton's dependence on Shakespeare in favour of his own unfettered fancies. His most shameless extravanganza encloses seductive fairies in an upended bird's nest. Its writhing, tortuous forms are echoed by the painting's frame, which sprouts a delirious tangle of three-dimensional twigs. They twist around the picture in an orgy of wriggles, and imply that intimate contact with the figures inside the canvas might be perilous.

The warning is apt. For Fitzgerald has concocted a macabre assortment of freaks for his bosky setting. Some hover like predatory bats over the foliage, while others plot, struggle, smirk and bare the spikes projecting from their scaly skin. The debt to Bosch is proclaimed *quite openly in the* foreground, where a horned monster clutches a broken egg as it hatches another naked fiend. But Fitzgerald's overheated imagination looks forward as well, anticipating the *even more bizarre* forest scenes painted by Max Ernst.

Even so, Fitzgerald seems inconsequential compared with "mad" Richard Dadd. He is by far the most outstanding artist in the show. And the fact that his masterpieces were painted in the criminal lunatic department of a hospital makes them even more astonishing. Dadd was incarcerated there in 1844, having killed his father in a notorious and premeditated incident. So he was never again able to pursue a promising professional career. The inmates were, however, encouraged to occupy themselves with reading, chess and handicrafts, and Dadd would certainly have been helped to resume painting as soon as he wanted to take it up once more. Dr Monro, the physician supervising him, had inherited from his celebrated father a collection *of watercolours by Girtin*, Turner and other members of the so-called "Monro School". He probably urged Dadd to start working again, and a photograph taken around 1856 shows him working on one of his greatest paintings, *Contradiction: Oberon and Titania*.

The thin brush held so delicately between his thumb and index finger testifies to the meticulousness with which he was able to work, loading each millimetre of his picture-surface with an abundance of *microscopic* detail. Although the proliferating minutiae are the result of an obsessive concern that may be symptomatic of his insanity, they also prove that Dadd's unsteady brain was allied to an exceptionally sharp eye and firm hand. The amount of superb work he produced during his 40 years in asylums bears witness to an overriding spiritual need. However depressing his outward circumstances and inner turmoil may have become, he held on to his imaginative vision as tenaciously as a shipwreck victim grasping the flotsam that keeps him alive.

Nobody can doubt the seriousness of Dadd's aims in *Contradiction*. The main characters stare at each other as if in a trance, and their uncanny stillness is echoed by everyone else in this exquisitely organised canvas. Shaped into an egg-like oval, it teems with eye-straining detail. The flora and fauna all seem the product of intense first-hand observation. But Dadd had no access to the outside world, so the butterflies, petals and figures alike all had to be painted from his prodigious memory.

After *Contradiction* was completed in 1858, fairy painting continued in Britain for another half-century. Arthur Rackham and others ensured that it invaded children's book illustration, enchanting nursery readers with heady images of delight in the dells. It could not, however, survive the advent of the First World War. The last picture on view here, Estella Canziani's *The Piper of Dreams*, was begun in the spring of 1914. By the time she exhibited it at the Royal Academy the following year, the boy playing his instrument in the fog-bound wood must have taken on a quite different meaning. He looks, with hindsight, like the bereft child of a father who has enlisted for battle, and the stripped trees behind him eerily resemble the landscape of the killing fields over in France. Reproductions of Canziani's picture became a favourite among the frontline troops, selling more than 250,000 copies in the first year alone. But the fairyland dream could not be sustained for long in the nightmare of machine-age obliteration, cutting down the young men who had so recently been weaned on a gossamer vision of paradise.

● Victorian Fairy Painting *at the Royal Academy (0171-300 8000) until Feb 8*

Arthur Rackham's snappily titled *The Serpentine is a lovely lake and there is a Drowning Forest at the bottom of it*

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BUILDING A LIBRARY

MUSSORGSKY'S BORIS GODUNOV
Reviewed by David Nice

MUSSORGSKY'S masterpiece has had an even more chequered career than the play on which it is based. Alexander Pushkin's Shakespearean chronicle was written in 1825 but only reached the stage in 1870, long after the poet's death. The opera's première took place four years later, by which time Mussorgsky had expanded and partly recomposed his seven-scene original. His well-meaning colleague Rimsky-Korsakov twice overhauled the work for more conventional *operatic tastes*.

The spectrum of currently available recordings is divided fairly equally between what one scholar has described as the "supersaturated *Boris*", David Lloyd-Jones's edition welding together as much music as possible from the composer's 1869 and 1874 scores, and Rimsky-Korsakov's sanitised version. Herbert von Karajan on Decca wades through Rimsky's thickened textures as if through treacle, but provides a jewelled setting for the sumptuous utterances of Nicolai Ghiaurov's tsar.

Ghiaurov is part of a tradition that puts Boris in the melodramatic limelight — a tradition promoted by the charismatic Chaliapin and taken up by Boris Christoff. Singing not just Boris in two EMI recordings but also the roguish Varlaam and the chronicler-monk Pimen, Christoff can be quietly eloquent as Pimen but follows *Chaliapin in raging, not singing*, his way through Boris's guilty hallucinations. He is better sampled in tandem with conductor **André Cluytens's** flexible guiding hand in the 1963 version (**EMI CDS 7 47993-8, 3CDs, £43.99**) than in Christoff's first recording which follows too many of Rimsky's first edition cuts.

And so to the best of the real thing. Mstislav Rostropovich *on Erato has several committed* singing actors, above all Ruggero Raimondi as the tsar, but his Washington forces are insufficiently gritty. Ideally rugged choral singing and playing are certainly to be found on **Claudio Abbado's** Berlin-based recording (**Sony Classical S3K 58977, 3CDs, £46.49**). This is the most vivid of guides to history in music as Mussorgsky saw it, moment by inspired moment.

● *To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk*
● *Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Fauré's Piano Quartets*

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

☐ RECENTLY commissioned by BAA, the airports authority, for the Flight Connections Centre at Heathrow, **Julian Opie's** *Imagine You're Moving* is now open. Two long light-boxes project a simple layering of apparently continuous computer-generated landscape, from dark green foreground through light green-blue hills to clouds, above an army of green bucket chairs. Up an escalator on the next floor, the same image, but without clouds, is shown on four viewing monitors. The images are redolent of those printed on the Formica of modern railway carriages. As well as finding out how delayed or late your plane may be, it is possible to catch a computer-game "ride" swooping around emblematic oak trees. Opie's piece, a seamless logo, is disconcerting in that it *appears always to have been* there.
Heathrow Flight Connections Centre (0181-745 4491)

☐ THE FRENCH painter **Bernard Frize** projects an apparently free-flowing movement of paint across a specially treated canvas to produce an image that is light, slippery and luxurious. The waxed surface allows him to create a sense of uncontrolled speed; the effect is somewhat like drifting sand, a fluid massing of movement and light. Downstairs, a singular arabesque of strangely merged *colour loops backwards and* forwards across the canvas of a large painting, illustrating the unquestioning, matter-of-fact confidence which Frize brings to his work.
Frith Street Gallery, 59-60 Frith Street, W1V 5TA (0171-494 1550) until Dec 20

☐ IN THIS exhibition of work by **Yuko Shiraishi**, *Juxtapositions*, the four large, abstract paintings in the back gallery are part of an ongoing series and perhaps more familiar examples of the artist's work. The effect of each — three blue stripes dragged across red underpainting — is both visually engaging yet somehow dry and awkward. In the front gallery, small paintings sunk into the wall provide a seamless expanse of wall and canvas, while across the gallery, their equivalent in colour and composition protrudes from the wall in three-dimensional boxes. This combination suggests a back-to-front, inside-out view of the possible space within a painting.
Annely Juda Fine Art, 23 Dering Street, W1R 9AA (0171-629 7578) until Dec 19

☐ AT CAMDEN Arts Centre, **Rose Finn Kelcey** is exhibiting three separate installations. The long, white gallery features an enormous caricature of a pearly gate, standing ajar, and a number of blown-up rubber corn sacks. Yet the scene is far removed from *rurality and its elements seem* like hugely blown-up parts of a children's board game. The floor across the hall is deep in straw, with bales piled so high as to produce a suffocating feeling in the viewer, without producing any sense of involvement in an "adventure". The third piece, displayed at an angle, is a closely tufted pink carpet holding a blown-up image of a Vatican Air Mail stamp.
Rose Finn-Kelcey, Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3 6DG (0171-435 2643) until Dec 21

SACHA CRADDOCK

هكذا من الاصل

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

CHICAGO: Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical directed by Walter Bobbie. A multi-Tony winner on Broadway last year. Starring Ruthie Henshall, Ute Lemper, Henry Goodman and Nigel Planer.
Adelphi, Strand, London WC2 (0171-344 0055). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm Ⓢ

END OF THE AFFAIR: Jasper Britton and Caroline Faber in an adaptation of *Graham Greene's novel, set during the* London Blitz. Directed by Rupert Goold and first seen at Salisbury Playhouse.
Bridewell, Bride Lane EC4 (0171-936 3456). Previews tonight, 7.30pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sun, 3.30pm.

SIBELIUS MINIATURES: Joseph Swensen conducts the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** in a repeat of *the all-Sibelius programme performed in* Edinburgh last Thursday, with the addition of *The Countess's Portrait*. This evening of small-scale pieces adds an extra dimension to the LSO's current Sibelius cycle here which focuses on the composer's major works.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight 7.30pm. Ⓢ

OTELLO: Second night and a new cast for the Royal Opera's production of Verdi's tragedy of jealousy and obsession. Giuseppe Giacomini makes his London debut in the title role, with a company debut for Bulgarian soprano Svetelina Vassileva as Desdemona. Elijah Moshinsky directs a specially adapted arena performance of his Covent Garden production. Jacques Delacôte conducts.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). *Tonight 7.30pm* Ⓢ

THE KING'S CONSORT: The esteemed baroque ensemble directed by its founder Robert King, pays a visit with a programme featuring music by Legrenzi, Marcello, Vivaldi and Caldara. With the soprano Lorna Anderson.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: In the second half of tonight's concert Sir Simon Rattle conducts the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** in Mahler's massive Symphony No 5. This is preceded by the City of Birmingham Symphony Youth Choir under Simon Halsey performing a new work for youth chorus and ensemble by Scottish composer Judith Weir.
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

BELFAST: The undisputed musical highlight of the 1997 Belfast Festival takes place here tonight as the renowned pianist Alfred Brendel and the rising baritone Matthias Goerne join forces in a double dose of Schubert: the song cycle *Die Winterreise*, followed by the Piano Sonata in B flat.
Waterfront Hall, Oxford Street (01232 334455). Tonight, 7.45pm. Ⓢ

COVENTRY: Seven shows here for **The Good Woman Of Sharkville**, Janet Suzman's production of Brecht's play, originally set in Sichuan but ingeniously transposed to South Africa. Great performances by the Market Theatre of Johannesburg.
Belgrade, Belgrade Square (01203 553055). Tonight-Thur, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, mats tomorrow, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm Ⓢ

ROMEO AND JULIET: Ray Fearon and Zoe Waites in Michael Attenborough's strikingly successful modern-day production.
Swan, Waterside (01789 295623). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. Opens Thur, 7pm. In repertoire Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

Anthony d'Offay: Roy Lichtenstein (0171-499 4100) ... **Barbican:** James Ensor (0171-638 8891) ... **British Museum:** Carter (0171-323 8525) ... **Fine Art Society:** Glyn Philpot RA (1884-1937) (0171-629 5116) ... **Hulton Getty Picture Gallery:** A Winter's Tale (0171-376 4525) ... **Museum of London:** Bedlam: Custody, care and cure (0171-600 0807) ... **National:** Holbein's Ambassadors (0171-747 2885) ... **National Portrait:** Sir Henry Raeburn (0171-306 0055)

Ute Lemper appears in *Chicago* at the Adelphi

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **ANGELS AND DEMONS:** The excellent Besht Tellers present the tale of Adam and his first wife Lilith. Rebecca Wolman directs Simon Thorp and Emma Cater in a production with music in a style where Jewish klezmer meets jazz.
Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Sun-Thurs and Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2pm and Sun, 4pm. Until Nov 30 Ⓢ

■ **ART:** Ron Cook, Nigel Havers and Malcolm Storry in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm

◪ **AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE:** Ian McKellen plays the spa doctor pitting himself against the community in Trevor Nunn's highly detailed production. Admirable cast.
National Theatre (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm, tomorrow, 7.15pm. In rep.

◪ **FAME:** TV and film spin-off about young hopefuls from the New York School of the Performing Arts. Touring company in London for ten weeks.
Victoria Palace, Victoria St, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Thur, 7.30pm, Fri, 5.30pm and 8pm; Sat, 3pm and 7.30pm. Until Jan 17

◪ **KING LEAR:** Alan Howard in the lead, with Victoria Hamilton as Cordelia and Greg Hicks as Edmund in Peter Hall's new production.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Tonight, 7.30pm. In rep

☐ **A LETTER OF RESIGNATION:** Edward Fox and Clare Higgins play Harold Macmillan and Lady Dorothy in Hugh Whitemore's play about the effects of the Profumo scandal. Christopher Morahan directs.
Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

☐ **POPCORN:** Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence. A Tarantinoesque director gets his comeuppance when a couple of serial killers (Corey Johnson and Dena Davis) blame him for their misdeeds. Laurence Boswell directs.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 4pm

☐ **THE SLOW DRAG:** Jazz musical by Carson Kreitzer, loosely based on the story of Billy Tipton, a woman who passed as a man to find work as a jazz musician. With Liza Sadovy, Kim Criswell and Christopher Colquhoun.
Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, London SW1 (0171-369 1735). Mon-Thur, 9pm; Fri and Sat, 7pm and 9.30pm.

☐ **STEPPING OUT:** Musical version of Richard Harris's hit play (music and lyrics by Denis King and Mary Stewart David). Julia McKenzie directs Liz Robertson and her team of hopeful hoofers.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thur, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

☐ **THREE VIEWINGS:** Quirky comedy drama by New Yorker Jeffrey Hatcher, set in a mortuary (which this theatre once was!) where curious people come to view the recently dead — seemingly an American custom. With Karen Ascoe, Ann Penfold, Robert Jezek. A Derby Playhouse production by Mark Clements.
New End, 27 New End, Hampstead NW3 (0171-794 0022). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat and Sun, 3.30pm. Until December 7 Ⓢ

☐ **WOYZECK:** Sarah Kane's gripping production of Buchner's tragedy of a common man. Riveting performances by Michael Shannon and Kate Ashfield.
Gate Theatre, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until November 22.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) ... ◪ **Buddy:** Strand (0171-930 8800) ... ◪ **Grease:** Cambridge (0171-494 5080) ... ◪ **An Inspector Calls:** Garrick (0171-494 5085) ... ☐ **Martin Guerre:** Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ... ☐ **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) ... ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ... ◪ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020) ... ☐ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) ... ☐ **The Women in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CHASING AMY (18): Comic-book artist finds himself in love with a lesbian. Appealing new film from *Clerks* director Kevin Smith, with Ben Affleck and Joey Lauren Adams.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Phoenix** (0171-369 1721) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990)

FULL CONTACT (18): Routine Hong Kong gangster fare, with Chow Yun Fat and much violent action. Director, Ringo Lam.
ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

◆ **G.I. JANE** (15): Demi Moore tests her mettle in the Navy Seal training programme. Unpleasant, masochistic spectacle directed by Ridley Scott.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **INCOGNITO** (15): Foolish American thriller made in Europe, with Jason Patric as an art forger accused of murder. With Irene Jacob, Rod Steiger. Director John Badham.
Virgin Trocadero Ⓢ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

LAST SUMMER IN THE HAMPTONS (15): Loves and deceptions of theatre folk at a Long Island summer retreat. Beguiling film from American maverick Henry Jaglom, with Victoria Foyt and Viveca Lindfors.
Metro (0171-437 0757) **Odeon Camden Town** (0181-315 4255)

◆ **TRIAL AND ERROR** (12): Actor steps in for hung-over attorney and defends a fraud case. Lame, uncertain comedy with Michael Richards and Jeff Daniels. Director, Jonathan Lynn.
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

CURRENT

THE GAMBLER (15): Intriguing tale about Dostoevsky writing his novel *The Gambler*, with Michael Gambon and Jodhi May. Director Károly Makk.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

◆ **HERCULES** (U): Greek mythology gets Disneyfied. Lively family cartoon from *Aladdin* directors John Musker and Ron Clements.
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (0181-315 4215) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **L.A. CONFIDENTIAL** (18): Smashing drama about corruption in LA in the early 1950s, with Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Kim Basinger, Guy Pearce and Danny DeVito.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** Ⓢ (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **A LIFE LESS ORDINARY** (15): Janitor and American heiress finally fall in love. Odd mix of comedy, fantasy and romance. With Ewan McGregor and Cameron Diaz. Director, Danny Boyle.
Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

WILDE (15): Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde: fine and touching, though the film is more timid than you might expect.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Odeons: Haymarket** (0181-315 4212) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker St** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

Hooked up to the electric

Caravan
Bush, W12

Helen Blakeman's first full-length play is set in a caravan. Some of the scenes do spill over to the outside of it, when its owner or her two daughters run up to the door in the rain, or if they and their various men are sprawling on the folding chairs to sunbathe, but most of the action is inside what Elizabeth Estensen's Josie calls "my little palace".

Caravans having the dimensions they do, the size of her palace is something less than Versailles, and on the Bush stage less than your less-than-average room. The achievements of designers at this theatre are regularly being hailed, to the point at which a play just set in a *room* might be a disappointment, but Bruce Macadie does not disappoint. By cutting the caravan's exterior and interior panels he allows us to see everything that goes on in its main cabin as well as providing glimpses of people who have disappeared beyond the flush doors.

The design is almost a metaphor for Blakeman's creative style. The scenes she gives us are written with a vivid relish for a wide variety of language traits, often very funny in a way that makes you shrink at the daft thought-processes the lines reveal of the speaker. But in a time-scale that covers two years in its nine scenes, with up to six months flashing past between the scenes, a family split that ends one scene will be patched up by the start of the next. What this suggests is a life of continually unfolding and interconnecting crises, like the soap world of *Brookside*.

Liverpudlian Josie and her two daughters come to Rhyl for weekend breaks, holidays and honeymoons. There are two men in their lives, each of whom is eventually having relationships with two of the women at the same time, allowing the potential for treachery, heart-searching and outrage to be limitless.

Despite a tendency to keep the mother and her younger daughter stereotypically ignorant of the wider world, the writing shows an engaging freshness and quirky humour, as well as a surefire technique for gripping the attention when the under-age Kim (Samantha Lavelle) lies back on her bunk licking a cornet and her scallywag Mick (Nick Bagnall) spreads mint'n'choc over her before licking it off as the preliminary to sex.

Pip Donaghy, playing a striking docker (a particularly well-observed performance), and Emma Cunliffe, as the older sister, bring with them a serious concern for the facts of life outside the flow of shifting alliances, and the integration of this into the structure of the play (Mick becomes a scab) is even more significant than the easy dialogue for Blakeman's playwriting future. These are five good performances in an attractive production by Gemma Bodinetz.

JEREMY KINGSTON

MARILYN KINGWILL

Elizabeth Estensen as Josie, owner of the eponymous caravan in Helen Blakeman's play

Cashing in on camp

THE time is long gone when to dabble in kitsch and camp was to flirt wickedly with the counter-culture. The retro world of glittery pink, PVC and Day-Glo is now most definitely mainstream. Today all the straight boys want to wear glitter and the straight girls talk camp slang.

In recent memory, fashion has carved out a very distinct route. Experimental gay culture gets picked up by the smart straights and, over about ten years, eventually filters down to the suburbs. Thus it takes a special kind of perversity to try to bypass the process to create an instant camp cult classic. The musical **Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens** (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton) is being plugged as the "*Rocky Horror Show* for the millennium". *Saucy Jack* is busy touring the regions with a programme of theme nights, tribute parties, and ready-to-buy costumes.

Set in a future galaxy, at the meanest bar on the planet, a crime wave attracts the attention of the Space Vixens, intergalactic crime-fighting babes who zoom in to the rescue with their glitter boots and zap guns. In theory, *Saucy Jack* has got the omnipresent sex, songs and rubberwear to strike a cult chord, but somehow the camp flops. Camp is generally a thin veneer for more serious concerns, a forbidden mode of behaviour or set of beliefs. What kept *Rocky Horror* running year after year was the real feeling of malice and sexual threat which existed beyond the naughty underwear and platform heels. Much as the *Saucy Jack* company ogle each other with unconvincing lasciviousness, and brandish weapons of destruction, this is cash-in camp and about as subversive as a lava lamp.

Falling off the other end of the scale in terms of barely conceived menace is **Chloe Poems** (The Oval House, London), a gay transvestite poet currently causing ripples on the fringe circuit. Ms Poems is a devotee of all things gingham and performs in the kind of frumpy housecoat that would have most drag queens reaching for the sartorial smelling salts. Her style is definitely more Victoria Wood than Bette Davis, but this check-loving housewife holds a vicious tongue and a winning way with a rhyming couplet.

At times she is so filthy that the subject-matter verges on the educational. The real moments of glory were her flights of literary fantasy. In "Skinny Wee Dalek", an episode of *Dr Who* as scripted by Irvine Welsh, the heroine gets threatened with extermination while she tries to cash her Giro, and complains about the lack of needle exchange on Ursa Minor. Beyond the rolling eyes, flounce and melodrama Chloe's poems always hold a more serious punch and provide an effective lesson to those who use camp humour as marketable froth.

HETTIE JUDAH

Slices of death

Three Viewings
New End, Hampstead

IN ITS former condition as a mortuary this neat little theatre was the temporary resting-place of the corpse of Karl Marx on its way to Highgate, *writes Jeremy Kingston*. So the artistic director could be forgiven for taking pleasure in mounting a play actually set in a mortuary — and particularly this one, by Jeffrey Hatcher, which is neither cheaply sentimental nor heartlessly humorous, these being risks that come with the territory.

His play consists of three monologues spoken in a Pittsburgh funeral parlour, first by its director, then by the granddaughter of a person passing through, and finally by an astonished widow. There is no overlap of story except in the references to peripheral characters and to the Green Mill Luncheonette to which all three speakers resort at time of stress.

Sandra Field's design cleverly reproduces the emphatically symmetrical look of these places, ironically sometimes categorised as resembling a stage set: the sombre bands of curtaining, the gilded sofa, the explosion of white flowers. Against this setting Emil in *Tell Tale* confesses his unexpressed love for Tessie, an estate agent who makes good use of the public viewings to make business contacts.

This tale is the least successful of the three, in great part because the author does not give us enough of Emil's past. Delaying the mention of important facts is OK, but restricting the account almost entirely to present time thins the character. Robert Jezek achieves a lot with his pale smiles and one brief outburst of rage.

The past bears powerfully upon Karen Ascoe's Mac in *The Thief of Tears*. For reasons that gradually emerge she has become a proficient corpse-robber and demonstrates how one can bend over the dear departed, peck her tenderly on each cheek and straighten up with a brace of ruby earrings in the mouth. Ascoe's bright smiles disguise two painful, subtly linked events of long ago, and her performance effectively conveys the tart edge behind dutiful sweetness. Here Hatcher's technique of delayed information is what allows the character to create itself in front of us.

In *Thirteen Things about Ed Carpoletti* the delay provides a delightfully happy, last-minute twist to his widow's discovery that her wheeler-dealer husband is vastly in debt. A spruce Ann Penfold, dazed but unfazed, retraces her journey through the gathering stormclouds of ruin with artful shifts of voice and demeanour. She is tremendously good company too. The able direction of all three plays is by Mark Clements, artistic director of Derby Playhouse, where they were first seen.

LAW

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● WHO'S THE VICTIM? 43

Will the Lord Chancellor's legal aid plans create fresh inequalities? **Frances Gibb** reports

Mind the new gap

This week MPs will have a chance to grill the Government over its proposed reforms to the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme. In a debate on Friday, Geoff Hoon, the Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, will explain why from April the Government plans to scrap civil legal aid money claims and replace them with "no win, no fee" (conditional fee) arrangements, whereby solicitors act for nothing but can claim higher than usual fees if they win.

The shake-up is aimed at *restoring access to justice* for "middle income Britain" — what Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, describes as the "vast *majority*" of the population, who cannot afford to go to law and do not qualify for legal aid.

Predictably, some will say, the legal profession is already voicing strong concerns. Less predictably, so are consumer and advice bodies. There is general support (although the Bar is not in favour) for widening "no win, no fee" work. But there is a consensus that this should not be done at the same time as withdrawing civil legal aid; it is too soon, critics say, to be sure that "no win" will plug the gap.

At the heart of the fears of consumer and legal groups is that the insurance market is not ready to step in when the State pulls out. Phillip Sycamore, President of the Law Society, says the changes rest on the assumptions that insurance cover (to protect litigants against paying a winner's costs) will be available and affordable. But last week at a briefing session he told MPs: "That simply is not the case. Outside personal-injury mainstream work, the insurance industry doubts the market will develop to provide that cover, and has said so." Where premiums do exist, he says, they will be beyond the reach of most people.

A second concern is that in complex litigation — such as medical negligence work — solicitors cannot afford the huge investigative costs needed before they can assess if a claim is a runner.

The effect, says Ashley Holmes of the Consumers' Association, will be that the present injustice — the exclusion of "middle income Britain" *from the law — will be* removed at the cost of "freezing the poorest and most vulnerable" out of the legal system: one inequality swapped for another.

Insurance industry reaction is mixed. Litigation Protection, Abbey Legal Protection, and Greystoke Legal Services (LawAssist) already provide cover — some in the medical negligence field. But Brian Raincock, of Litigation Protection, admits that there will have to be "imaginative schemes" developed to ensure *that people can afford the* premiums; and, he says, these are on the way. One option would be for the Legal Aid Board to pay the premiums; another, argued by the Government, would be for solicitors to bear the costs, which they insist they could ill afford to do. If it is to be the former though, only "surefire" claims (those with more than a 75 per cent chance of winning) will ever get off the ground.

At present, this is just talk. The Government remains accused — according to Roger Smith, of the Legal Action Group — of using "a very blunt instrument" when it should use a scalpel, and all for saving £80 million from the legal aid budget.

Yet there are signs of movement. Lord Irvine is sure that "no win" fees will fill the gap and give "millions" access to justice. He does accept, though, the need for a hardship fund, and one for "public interest" cases. "But they would have to be strong cases. Any hardship fund would not become a dump for too weak cases, cases that the market is not willing to back with a conditional fee agreement."

Fiona Bawdon on two people who might have lost with conditional fees

DOMINIC PARKER / SOLENT

PAUL BARKER

Two who were awarded damages: Paul Kobryn, above, and June Hancock. Legal aid helped them to win expensive cases

What about Paul?

THE first reaction of Ian Streat, a solicitor, to Lord Irvine's announcements was to ask: "What about people like Paul?" Paul Kobryn was 17 when he was knocked off his bicycle, catastrophically injured, and left paraplegic.

With the help of legal aid and his solicitor, Mr Streat, a partner at the Southampton-based Warner Goodman & Streat, he won damages for his injuries.

Mr Kobryn, now 29, believes that the money has transformed his life. "Without it," he says, "I'd still be in an institution." Instead he lives in his own specially adapted home, which includes accommodation for his carers, and he plans to buy a place so he can have more privacy. His 24-hour care means that he can go to social events and has even been able to afford several short holidays.

Cases such as his are notoriously expensive to bring. They usually involve a lot of experts, which means that the disbursements cost a lot. Mr Kobryn could never have have met these costs himself if "no win, no fee" had been the only option. "It's just Mum and me," he adds. "I was only a student."

Mr Streat insists that the case would not have been brought without legal aid. His firm — though, with 12 partners, large for a regional firm — could not have funded it, nor could the disbursement bill have been reduced in any way.

Mr Kobryn is appalled at the prospect of legal aid being withdrawn. He also believes that it is probably a false economy. Apart from the freedom the award gives him, being financially self-sufficient means that he costs the State nothing.

Too risky today

JUNE HANCOCK'S case has been called "the most important environmental" case of recent years". *But, says the solicitor she* hired, without legal aid, it would never have been brought. Ms Hancock, who died earlier this year, won £65,000 damages after developing mysothelioma — an asbestos-related cancer.

Her solicitor, Adrian Budgen of the Sheffield-based Irwin Mitchell, says the case extended the manufacturer's duty of care to neighbours of factories, rather than just employees.

The firm could never have brought this case on conditional fees: it would have been too risky; and the costs were disproportionate to the amount awarded. Even with a success fee of 100 per cent, the firm would not have been adequately compensated.

Mr Budgen says: "We have a team of nine people and spent close to 4,000 hours on it. And when you think of the experts involved and counsel . . . "

Nor would the after-the-event insurance limit of £100,000 have covered costs. The case was also made more expensive by the tactics of the defendants, Turner and Newall. In his judgment, Mr Justice Holland accused the company of using "any means possible, legitimate or otherwise, so as to wear [the plaintiff] down by attrition".

It is not just the 25 cases subsequently settled that were helped by Ms Hancock's victory. A research fund is being set up in her name, to offer help and support to other sufferers of mysothelioma (2,500 people die from the condition every year). "And," Mr Budgen says, "it *didn't cost the taxpayer a penny.*"

Why the PCC will still have a role

The Government's Human Rights Bill will incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. One issue discussed during the second reading debate in the House of Lords on November 3 was the impact of the Bill on privacy. Will the courts grant injunctions to prevent newspapers from publishing true information the subject wants to keep secret?

Article 8 of the Convention guarantees the right to private life. It recognises that on occasions we all, like Greta Garbo, want to be alone. We are entitled to have our personal *thoughts and private actions protected from* the telephoto lens and the microphone. But Article 8 is not absolute. It allows for intrusions into private life when this is necessary in a democratic society.

When the intrusion is by the press, Article 10 of the Convention is also relevant. It guarantees freedom of expression. Although, again, this is not an absolute right, but one that is subject to those exceptions necessary in a democratic society, the European Court has repeatedly emphasised the importance of free speech. It is "incumbent on the press to impart information and ideas on matters of public interest" in *performance of "its vital role of* public watchdog".

What, then, will the English courts say if, the day after the enactment of the Human Rights Bill, a television soap opera star, a relative of the Queen or a backbench MP seeks an injunction to stop a Sunday newspaper from publishing the secrets of their private life?

The Bill requires a "public authority" to comply with the Convention. A newspaper is not a "public authority", but the term is defined to include the courts, so judges must protect the rights of litigants under the Convention. However, the Convention does not require domestic law to establish a right to privacy. In *Winer v United Kingdom* in 1986, the European Commission of Human Rights concluded that because of the competing right to freedom of expression, it did "not consider that the absence of an actionable right to privacy *under English law shows a lack of respect for* the applicant's private life".

Our courts will also conclude that, in any event, it is consistent with the Convention for the law to allow the balance between free speech and personal privacy to be determined by public authorities such as the Press Complaints Commission (PCC). Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, explained during the second reading debate that the Government is not introducing a privacy statute because it believes that "strong and effective self-regulation is the best way forward in the interests of both the press and the public".

The PCC Code of Practice maintains a fair balance by protecting privacy save where there are competing public interest considerations. Applying the principles to specific cases is often a difficult question of subjective judgment. The PCC's latest digest of its decisions reports, for example, on the complaint brought against *The Mail on Sunday* by Rowan Atkinson's brother, who objected to an article which speculated that he was the model for the comic character Mr Bean. Does the brother have a right to *continue living his life in anonymity*, or are the origins of a popular fictional character a matter of public interest? The PCC rejected the complaint.

The courts should, and I think will, recognise that other than in the most extreme circumstances, it is consistent with the Convention to leave these difficult questions of judgment to the relevant specialist body. It is true that the PCC cannot grant complainants an injunction to stop publication. But then the courts themselves will not grant injunctions to stop libels that the publisher intends to justify. Indeed, the European Court has emphasised *that prior restraints on* publication require "the most careful scrutiny" because "news is a perishable commodity, and to delay its publication, even for a short period, may well deprive it of all its value and interest".

In dismissing in 1996 an application for judicial review against the PCC brought by the Moors murderer Ian Brady, who was aggrieved by a picture of him published in *The Sun*, the Court of Appeal emphasised that it would recognise a very broad discretion for the PCC. Such an approach is entirely consistent with the Convention. When dismissing claims against the United Kingdom in planning cases, the European Court has stated that questions of judgment may properly be left to qualified independent experts, so long as judicial review exists to correct perversity, or errors of law.

As Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1803: "It is so *difficult to draw a clear line of separation* between the abuse and the wholesome use of the press, that as yet we have found it better to trust the public judgment, rather than the magistrate." Save in extreme cases, the Human Rights Bill will neither qualify nor require our judges to grant injunctions which decide where freedom of expression ends and privacy begins.

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. This is an edited version of a lecture to the Young Legal Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.*

COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

OUTS

War crimes prosecutors wanted

THE Government is to canvass the Bar for QCs willing to help to speed up the war crimes trials at The Hague by taking on prosecutions.

The offer was made last week by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, when Judge Louise Arbour, the chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, was visiting London.

Mr Cook said that Britain had a skilled pool of trial lawyers who might be briefed to act on a one-off basis to help to speed up prosecutions pending with the tribunal. Twelve trials are awaiting hearing, but a total of 77 alleged war criminals have been charged.

Mr Cook is keen to help to ensure that those responsible for war crimes in the Balkans are brought to justice. Britain has become the first country to offer sanctuary to individuals who testify before the tribunal and could be in danger if they return to their homes.

● *Lewis Silkin, the West End law firm, is hosting an update seminar on the Internet and e-mail on November 25. It will cover the rules of copyright and other intellectual property rights, business on the Net (contracts, advertising etc), e-mail and libel and forum shoppping. Details: Sue Ryan, 0171-227 8154.*

Wigs and lunch

BISHOP John Taylor, former Bishop of St Albans, will preach the fourth sermon in the *Wigs and Mitres* series at a service in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on Sunday. Lawyers and anyone else who attends will hear his views on "What does the Lord require of you?" The service comes with lunch for an all-in price of £23. Details: 0171 405 1393.

Corporate killing

AS A RESULT of an editing error, Stephanie Trotter's article last week was made to suggest that under the new government offence of corporate killing, company directors would be severely dealt with and, if convicted, fined personally or jailed. Mrs Trotter has asked us to make clear that the point she in fact made is that there is widespread misunderstanding of the Law Commission proposals on which the government offence is based and company directors will not personally face punishment.

SCRIVENOR

Write yourself a winner

Lord Bingham: "duty"

A TOTAL of £6,000 is on offer in this year's Times Law Awards, held with One Essex Court, the chambers of Anthony Grabiner, QC.

There is still time for students to submit articles of no more than 1,000 words on: *Privacy and the press: is law the answer?* First prize is £3,000, second £2,000 and third, £1,000. Three runners-up will each receive £250.

The Human Rights Bill — which will pave the way for courts to create a privacy law — has now been published. Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, has made clear that courts are under a "clear duty" to take up this role. But the first few rulings will be crucial in determining where judges are likely to draw the line.

● *Full details and rules via 0171-583 2000 or see* Law, *October 14, or* The Times *Website at: Http://www.the-times.co.uk*

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The number of vacancies of this sort has increased substantially in recent months. The legal job-market is flourishing worldwide. We have positions in Scandinavia, Brussels, Italy, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and South and Central America. Some are with local companies; others with international corporations. For many of them, a candidate would be preferred who is capable of handling more than purely legal matters.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY Our legal directory is available from Biblios, (01403 – 710 971)

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If you would like an informal discussion about the posts please call Arif Khan on 0171 211 8880. To obtain an application form please contact Emma Omari at the Lawyers Management Unit, Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS. (Fax: 0171 210 3288: phone 0171 210 3304). Closing date for applications 9th December 1997.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Promoting change: Lincoln Crawford, chairman of the Bar race relations committee, and Margaret McCabe, organiser of the Women Lawyers' Conference

Frances Gibb reports on the barriers to ethnic minority progress in the profession

The cement ceiling

"We are comfortable now with Asian barristers," a chambers clerk said recently. "But as for Afro-Caribbean ones — we're just not ready for them. The clients wouldn't like it."

The tale is told by Lincoln Crawford, the chairman of the Bar's race relations committee; and it shows, he says, that ethnic minority lawyers still face not so much a glass ceiling as a cement roof. The obstacles are, he comments, there at every stage of a legal career — from law school and examinations, to entry point into law firm or chambers and, finally, when it comes to promotion to the bench.

> 'Criteria for preference have to change'

But the problems are coming out into the open. For the first time, the legal profession and the Government are joining on November 29 for an unprecedented public debate of the issues. The 1997 Minority Lawyers' Conference, *New Generation: New Challenges*, the first of its kind, takes place under the aegis of the Law Society, Bar Council and Lord Chancellor's Department, with the Lord Chancellor — Lord Irvine of Lairg — giving the keynote address.

That it will happen at all is a tribute to the barrister Margaret McCabe, who also organised the highly successful Women Lawyers' Conference. To bring together the profession with the various organisations into a mainstream event has not, she admits, been easy. But the enthusiasm was there. The aim, she says, is not to have a big whinge about problems but to "produce ideas and strategies so that minority lawyers can succeed and rise through the ranks of the legal profession".

Mr Crawford agrees. "You can't talk about a multicultural society when there are whole swaths of areas in the legal profession where black people cannot participate at all," he says. He points out that while minority lawyers are found in the Government legal service, Crown Prosecution Service and local government, they are not found to the same extent in private practice — and scarcely at all in the judiciary. There are no black High Court judges; and only four out of 552 (0.7 per cent) recorded among the circuit judges.

The focus will be on action: how to develop a modern practice, play a part in the decision-making of the legal profession, forge contacts, break into new areas of work and progress up the ladder. A continuing problem is the size of the pool from which candidates are drawn. Law Society figures show that in July 1996, ethnic minority solicitors with a practising certificate comprise 4.1 per cent of the 68,000 practising solicitors; and nearly all have less than ten years' experience. The proportion is, however, growing.

> 'Some central action is needed'

They make up almost 20 per cent of trainees and nearly 25 per cent of entrants to law degree courses. At the Bar, latest figures show 13 per cent of pupils and squatters (barristers with no chambers place) and 8 per cent of barristers in independent practice are of minority origin.

But there is evidence that the pool is smaller than it should be — witness the comment of the clerk above. Mrs McCabe argues: "There are some preferred sets of chambers, for instance, that get the CPS briefs, so we need to change the criteria for being a preferred set. If you don't get the work, you don't have the experience that puts you in the frame to apply for promotion."

More, they believe, could be done by the Lord Chancellor's Department to trawl for candidates; and to look more imaginatively at who might qualify. They do not want positive discrimination but positive action. "There needs," Mr Crawford says, "to be some action centrally, some direct intervention, as Tony Blair did with women MPs — to make a difference." They are nevertheless adamant that ability is the touchstone. Mrs McCabe says: "We do not want anyone to be given a job because of the colour of their skin. What we are saying is: these people can do the job; just give them the chance."

● The 1997 Minority Lawyers' Conference is sponsored by The Times and National Westminster Bank. Details: Marcia Williams, 0171-320 5800, or Pamela Bhalla, 0171-242 0082.

The convicted rapist feels unlucky — rarely guilty

Should Parliament prevent a victim's sexual history being raised in court?

Extensive coverage of the lengthy cross-examination of two rape victims by their attacker has drawn attention to the ordeal that victims routinely face in court. But the response of the Government, some academics and the media invokes victims' rights at the expense of defendants' rights. Preventing defendants from representing themselves sets a dangerous precedent, and at the same time sidesteps the refusal of the criminal justice system to arrest, investigate and convict violent men. That is, it undermines civil rights, yet changes nothing for women.

The reality is that though more women than ever now report rape, convictions have fallen from 25 per cent of reported cases in 1985 to less than 10 per cent in 1994. A third are not even recorded by the police as crimes; and four fifths of those recorded are dropped before trial.

Women making an initial complaint are still likely to face sexist indifference, racism or other hostility; inaccuracy in recording a statement; ineffective gathering of evidence; inadequate and even brutal forensic medical examiners; notorious reluctance to prosecute by the CPS; and in the minority of cases that reach court, a trial that many describe as a "second rape". No wonder only one in 200 rapes results in conviction. Convicted rapists feel unlucky, not guilty.

The problem is not that defendants have too many rights but that victims have too few. Defendants who defend themselves and who badger and intimidate the witness are a tiny minority. Politicians and the media have rarely protested about defence barristers trawling through a woman's irrelevant sexual, medical and other history.

The 1991 criminalisation of rape in marriage finally established that the issue in every rape trial where identity is not in doubt is consent, not whether a woman slept with the accused or any other man on any other occasion. This basic principle, hard won by years of women's campaigning, seems always under threat. Judges have the discretion to protect witnesses from tortuous questioning; yet they too often allow questions irrelevant to consent. A woman's sexual history is no more relevant to a rape case than previous convictions of the accused. In addition, rape victims are not represented in court; they never meet the prosecution lawyers before the trial, and often find "their" lawyers careless, ill-prepared and prejudiced.

Proposals to hold trials without the victim being present, such as the Home Secretary's proposal of video links or written statements, are also dangerous. Unlike children who need shielding from the incomprehensible trauma of giving evidence in person, most adults want their "day in court". The two women who, with our help and that of two other women's groups, successfully brought the first private prosecution for rape in England, wanted to tell their story, and to get public recognition and offical condemnation of the wrong they had suffered. They did not want to be put on trial for a crime of which they were the victim.

The fact that, increasingly, reported rapes do not fit the stereotype of dark alley-stranger-knife reflects rising expectations that women need not accept unwanted sex. That the rapist was a date, a trusted friend or a partner does not make rape easier to bear or harder to prove. The sensational media coverage of "date rape", with its so-called false allegations, has been the occasion for some lawyers, academics and politicians to call for legal distinctions between rape by strangers and other forms of the assault. But accusing women of not knowing their own minds, sending "wrong signals", or having a natural propensity to lie, conveniently hides men's refusal to take no for an answer and the criminal justice system's refusal to prosecute effectively for it.

The obstacles women encounter also confront those in the police, the CPS and the courts who share our concerns. What is needed is a change of priorities at every stage of the criminal justice process. Parliament disallowing a victim's sexual history from being raised in court would be an important step in establishing yet again that in rape cases, consent is the issue.

LISA LONGSTAFF AND ANNE NEALE

● Women Against Rape, PO Box 287, London NW6 5QU

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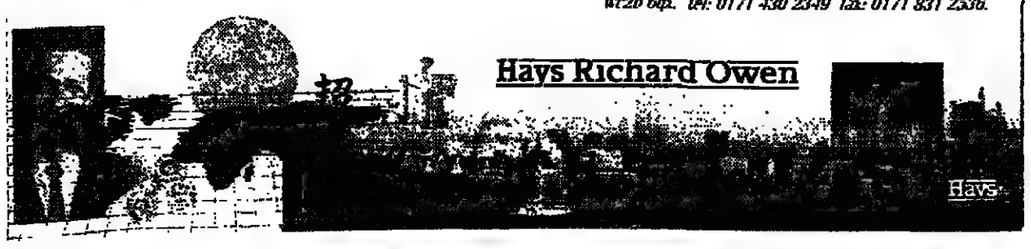

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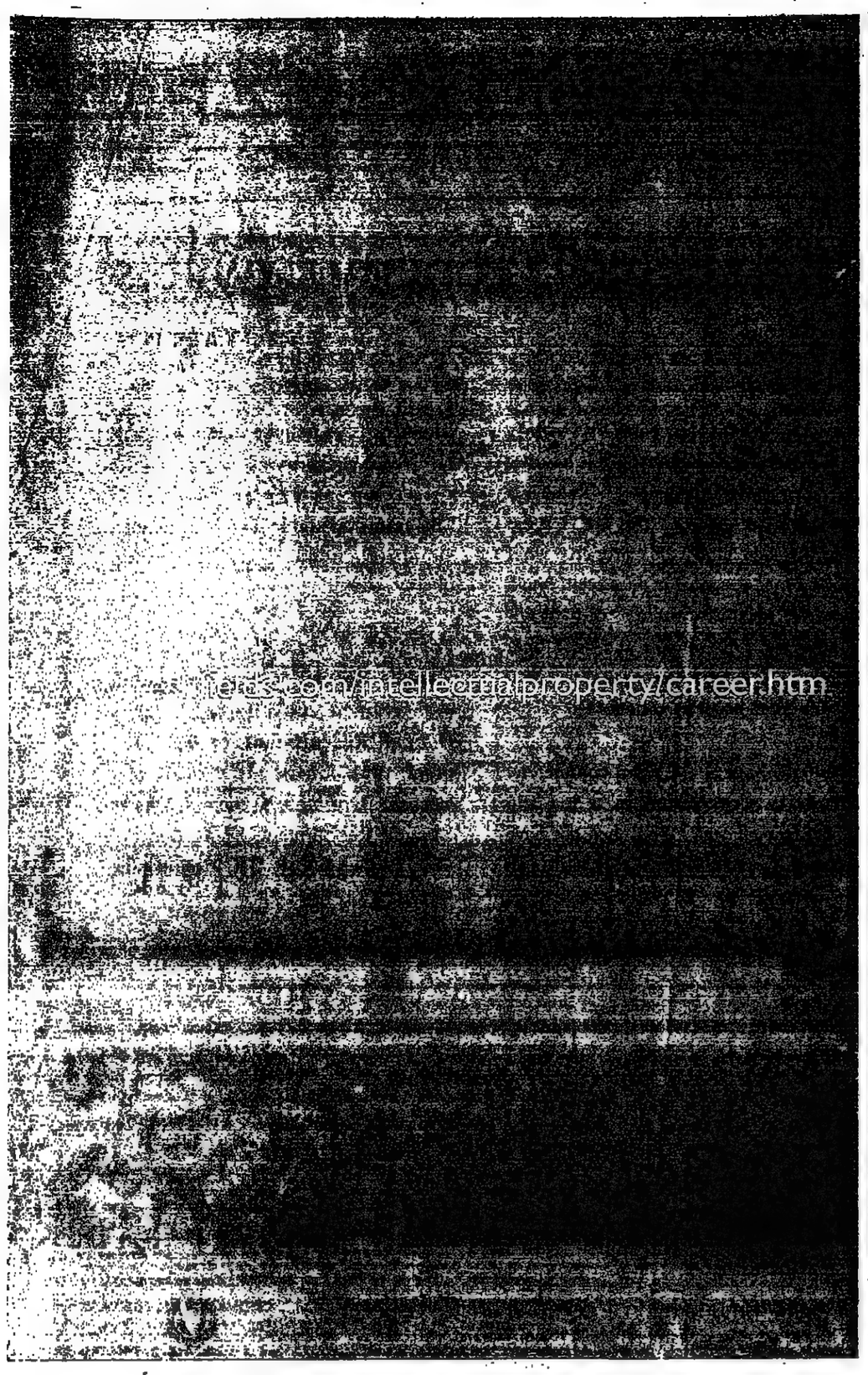

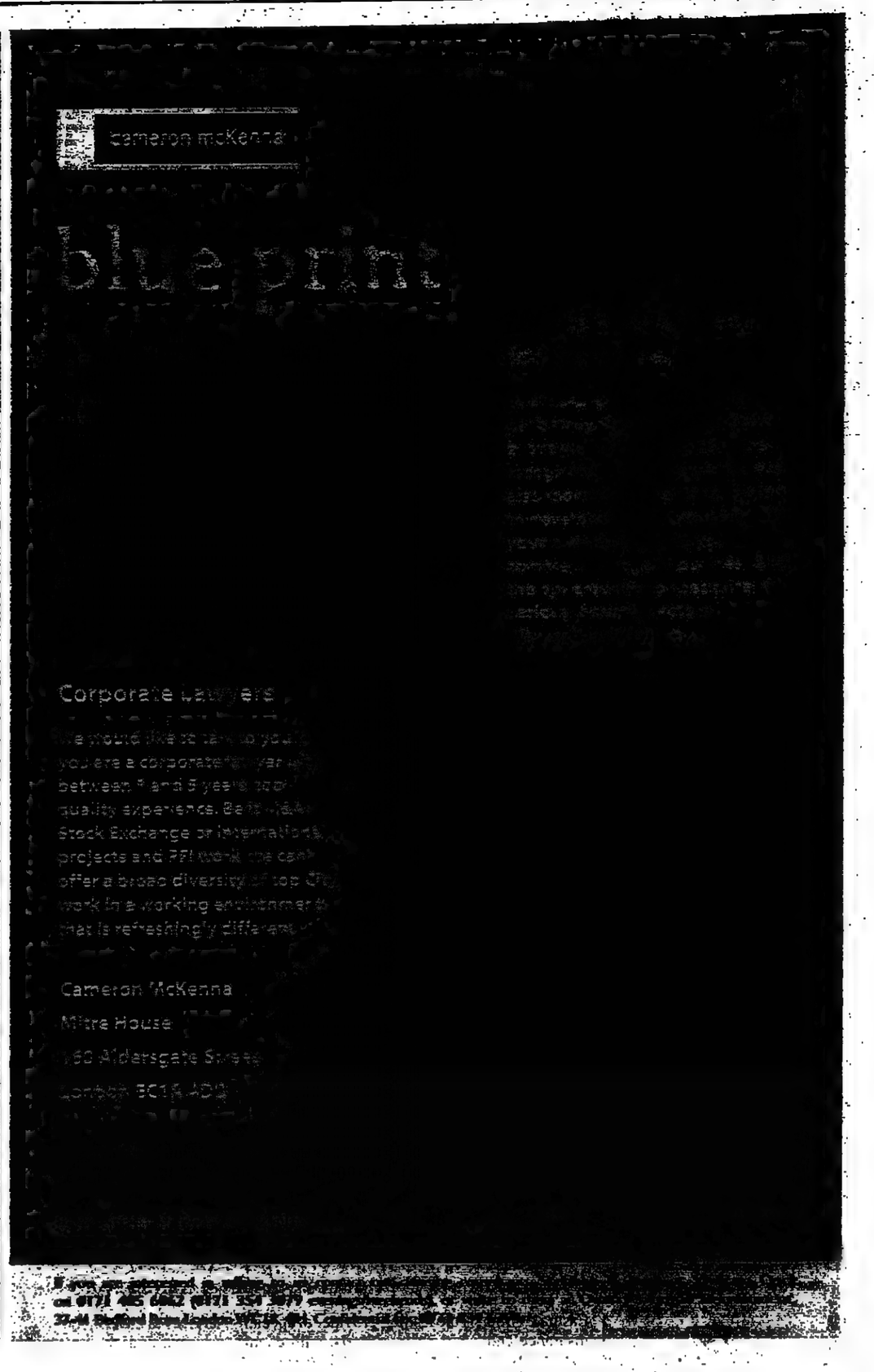

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Insolvency/Recovery to £45K
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* The American Lawyer (Mid-level Associates Survey - Oct 1996)

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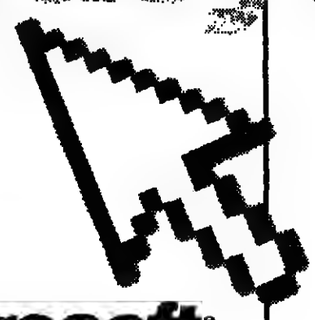

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TENNIS

Hingis faces powerful challenge in rich finale

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

DESPITE the $2 million prize-money and bonus ranking points on offer, the 16 women who contest the Chase Championships here this week will have one eye on the holiday period that follows.

Played in Madison Square Garden, the tournament is as American as the Big Mac. Only the roll of honour breaks the spell. Most of the champions of recent years have been European, with Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, who did not become an American until 1994, sharing the lion's share of the spoils.

This time, however, the home crowd may have something to cheer about. Although Martina Hingis has stolen the limelight this year, she has been showing signs of tiring at the end of a gruelling season. True enough, she is the youngest world No 1 in the history of the sport, has lost only four times all year, and has won three of the four grand-slam titles; she has simply been untouchable at the top of the heap.

However, a mass of ranking points in the bank has not given Hingis the same air of invincibility that Graf had in the same position. She is still only 17 and, over the last few tournaments, she has visibly wobbled. Add to that her habit of falling off horses, as she attempts to qualify for her showjumper's licence, and the run into New York has not been the best period of Hingis's golden year.

At the same time, the jostling for position in the rest of the rankings has become fierce. Jana Novotna, who had been sitting tight in the No 2 slot, was overtaken at the weekend by Lindsay Davenport, the first time the tall American has reached such heady heights in the world rankings.

Much was expected of Davenport when she took over from Martina Navratilova as the United States No 1 in 1994. As Navratilova waved her final farewell at Madison Square Garden in the first round that year, Davenport went on to reach the final. But thereafter her progress was hindered by injury, illness and an attendant lack of self-belief.

Winning the Olympic gold medal on home turf in 1996 marked the beginning of her comeback and this year she has won six titles and comes to New York having reached three consecutive finals in Zurich, Chicago and Philadelphia. Included in her list of recent achievements is a win over Hingis in the semi-finals of the Los Angeles event.

Fitter than before, Davenport's size and renewed confidence have begun to pack a considerable punch. On Sunday night, she took Hingis to a third-set tie-break in the final of the Advanta Championship in Villanova, Philadelphia, before going down 7-5, 6-7, 7-6.

After the match, Hingis said: "They are catching up to me pretty much, and soon. Everybody says: 'You have no rivals.' But at this tournament, everybody else showed I'm not the only one who can play."

Amanda Coetzer is another of those elbowing her way through the ranks. The diminutive South African may look tiny and demure, but she is not one to take defeat lightly. What she lacks in inches — she stands a mere 5ft 2in in her tennis socks — she makes up for in stamina. Like Davenport, she has beaten Hingis this year — in the semi-finals in Leipzig — and, again like Davenport, has climbed to her highest ranking.

One things is certain. Come Sunday night, there will be a new champion in the record books. No one in the 16-strong field has won this title before and only Hingis, Davenport, Anke Huber and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario have reached the final. In the absence of Graf, who is still nursing her injured knee, the field is wide open.

DRAW

M Hingis (Switz) v B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl); S Appelmans (Bel) v M Pierce (Fr); A Coetzer (SA) v N Tauziat (Fr); A Huber (Ger) v I Majoli (Cro); I Spirlea (Rom) v S Testud (Fr); M J Fernandez (US) v L Davenport (US); M Seles (US) v A Sánchez Vicario (Sp); C Martinez (Sp) v J Novotna (Cz).

CHRIS GARDNER

A determined Davenport pushed Hingis all the way before succumbing in three sets

Rusedski ranks with best for Sampras

GREG RUSEDSKI, No 6 in the Association of Tennis Professionals' end-of-year rankings, could be the most realistic challenger for the leading position in 1998, according to the man whose hold on the No 1 spot is as secure as ever.

Asked who poses the greatest threat to his supremacy, Pete Sampras, who heads the rankings for a record-equalling fifth year, said: "It's hard for me to say one player, but you can look at someone like Rusedski, on an indoor fast court or grass."

The Briton started the year at No 48 on the list, but Sampras said: "Rusedski, out of them all, has the biggest game with his serve. When he gets his first serve in, he's pretty much unplayable. His game forces you to be ready. You have to stay on your toes. You feel like, if you miss a couple of shots here and there and he serves big enough, that could be the first set.

"His game reminds me of [Goran] Ivanisevic a little bit with the up and downness that he plays. But with a serve like that, he's going to be around for a lot of years." Tim Henman is at No 17 in the list, which was issued yesterday.

Rankings, page 52

ICE HOCKEY

Cardiff's nerves calmed by Matulik

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

CARDIFF Devils and Sheffield Steelers served up a thrilling game before a capacity crowd at the Cardiff Ice House on Sunday with the home side, 3-0 ahead after ten minutes, eventually winning 4-3.

Determined to atone for two successive defeats, the Devils took advantage of some uncharacteristic hesitancy by Piero Greco, the Sheffield netminder, with goals by Ken Hodge, Frank Evans and Vezio Sacratini. The second period was scoreless, but the Steelers got the breaks in the third, Ken Priestlay scoring on the power play, Ed Courtenay taking advantage of an errant clearance and David Longstaff scoring from close range to bring them level.

Within two minutes, Ivan Matulik put Cardiff ahead again and, although play was in the Cardiff end of the rink for the remaining eight minutes, the Devils held on. They were helped by Sheffield's tendency to indulge in roughhouse tactics when they might have been better served by concentrating on trying to draw level.

The change in coach at Newcastle Cobras has had an immediate effect. Dale Lambert has taken over from Rick Brebant, who was dismissed; and the team, who broke their duck against Nottingham Panthers with a 5-4 success in midweek, gained their second successive win, beating Bracknell Bees by the same score. Brett Stewart scored three of their goals and Randy Smith netted the winner in the seventh minute of overtime.

Brebant, meanwhile, has moved to Manchester and set up the first goal of the game on the way to the Storm's 8-3 defeat of Basingstoke Bison. The return to full fitness of Dale Jago was an important factor in Manchester's success; he assisted on three of the goals.

SAILING

Silk Cut storms into fifth after avoiding disaster

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

LAWRIE SMITH almost broke the 24-hour monohull record and came close to losing several of his sails overboard as he made the best of strong following winds in the Southern Ocean and improved *Silk Cut* to fifth place in the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

In the 24 hours to midday yesterday, *Silk Cut* achieved a run of 431.5 miles, averaging 17.7 knots for the last six hours of the period, in freezing conditions and tailwinds of 30-32 knots. This is just three miles short of the record set by *Toshiba* during her transatlantic Whitbread qualifying race last July.

With the weather at last in his favour right on the southern edge of the Roaring Forties at 49 degrees south, Smith moved from seventh to sixth on Sunday, and then ahead of *Chessie Racing* into fifth place. In terms of distance to the end of the leg in Fremantle, the fourth-placed boat, *EF Language*, skippered by Paul Cayard, is now well within his grasp, just 22 miles ahead.

Steve Hayles the navigator on board *Silk Cut*, said that there had been two fairly big "wipe-outs" when the boat broached under masthead spinnaker, before they changed down to a fractional spinnaker.

"The change itself went smoothly, although hauling in 280 square metres of heavy spinnaker cloth with freezing hands in 35 knots of wind is never the simplest of tasks," Hayles said. "We were just settling down and getting the boat fully powered up when we went down a very steep wave."

What happened next almost brought Smith's race to an end. The sails stacked on the weather-side deck, to help flatten out the boat, and tied onto the stanchion posts were swept overboard as a wall of water engulfed the boat from bow to stern, sweeping off all the guardrails and stanchions from one side.

"As the front of the boat disappeared into the wave at well over 25 knots, the water swept aft and dragged the sails hard enough to break off every stanchion, leaving the sails hanging over the side," Hayles said. "This was a major situation, as losing the whole lot meant losing the whole race."

Without dropping the spinnaker and working on a precarious deck with no guardrails, the crew managed to haul the sails, weighing more than half a ton, back on board before taking them down below, where they were repacked. "Apart from that little drama, we have had a good day," Hayles said.

While Smith and the boats closest to him, *EF Language* and *Toshiba*, skippered by Paul Standbridge, posted 17-knot averages, the top two boats, *Swedish Match* and *Innovation Kvaerner*, were slower at around 12 knots, with the barometer climbing. One of the big losers in the past two or three days has been Grant Dalton, on *Merit Cup*, who was in eighth place yesterday, well to the north of almost all the boats ahead of him and still not benefiting from the conditions that are pushing Smith towards the front of the fleet.

Dalton knows he has a big problem. "So now we must dig very deep and bail ourselves out of the position we now find ourselves in," he said yesterday. "The next days will be hard on us mentally, but we must improve."

DETAILS

POSITIONS (at 1200 GMT yesterday, with miles to Fremantle): 1, Swedish Match (Swe) 2,092; 2, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 2,382.6; 3, Toshiba (US) 2,558.4; 4, EF Language (Swe) 2,721.5; 5, Silk Cut (GB) 2,743.9; 6, Chessie Racing (US) 2,780.1; 7, EF Education (Swe) 2,816.9; 8, Merit Cup (Monaco) 2,892.7; 9, BrunaSunergy (Holl) 2,840

RACING

Williamson eases himself into 14-day suspension

By Chris McGrath

SOMETIMES the nightmare only begins when you wake up. Norman Williamson, one of National Hunt's most accomplished jockeys, was banned for 14 days at Leicester yesterday, having dozed into a gaffe that will torment him for much longer.

Approaching the last in the novices' chase, Williamson seemed assured of successs on the 11-4 on favourite, Herbert Lodge. Graham Bradley, on Kapco, was labouring a couple of lengths away, as Herbert Lodge landed full of running for Williamson — dubbed "Stormin' Norman" by affectionate punters.

Williamson, inspecting his colleague afresh, decided that a few brief pushes would permit Herbert Lodge to coast up the run-in. With barely 75 yards to go, he sought reassurance over his right shoulder — only to find that Kapco had disappeared. Taking a sharp look over the other shoulder, he was rewarded with the spectacle of Kapco surging past under a dynamic drive. It was too late for anything bar a despairing flap at the reins of Herbert Lodge, who was beaten two lengths, at a cost to backers of some £7,000 in recorded bets alone.

The man whose heroics have so often won their esteem had become the punters' villain. They did not spare him their venom on his return to the unsaddling enclosure. Destinations recommended to Williamson included his native Ireland, and Blackpool, presumably a reference to donkey derbys. One racegoer, trying to confront Williamson, was thwarted only by a collision with the jockey's driver.

Jenny Pitman, the trainer, also shepherded an irate punter away, while Williamson's colleagues provided a protective escort as they rode out for the next race.

The stewards gave Williamson the maximum penalty in their power, the ban commencing on November 26. He emerged to offer an apology: "I made a mistake. It's been done before and will be done again. I'm very, very sorry."

But jump jockeys remain authentic sporting heroes for a cynical and commercial age, and it is a hard heart that cannot forgive these intrepid men the occasional such howler — especially if you consider what had befallen Williamson's young colleague, Barry Fenton, at Plumpton just 20 minutes earlier.

Fenton was flung into the ground when Brackenheath crashed at the first in the November Novices' Hurdle. Rich Tycoon, dispensing with Robert Thornton in the process, promptly landed on top of Fenton, who lay ominously still as the two horses thudded away. Scenes of dangerous farce threatened as the ambulance, bouncing towards the stricken rider, sank into the mud in the home straight, wheels spinning helplessly. The regulations state that the ambulance should not go onto the track itself *during a race*; fortunately, they also require two to be in attendance. The other was able to deal with Fenton, while a tractor eventually dealt with the stranded vehicle.

Extraordinary to relate, Fenton was not even concussed. But it was still a bad day at the office: the stewards suspended him for seven days under Rule 151 (relating to non-triers) for his ride on Buckland Lad, a well-beaten second in the previous race. The horse himself was banned for 30 days, and Gardie Grissell, his trainer, fined £500 — to his evident disgust. "In 20 years' training, I have never sent out a non-trier and never backed any of my horses," he said. "This is a slur, and I shall appeal."

☐ William Haggas, the Newmarket trainer, was fined £1,500 under the non-trier's rule when his two-year-old, Shocker, finished unplaced at Southwell yesterday. The jockey, Jo Hunnam, was suspended for seven days — from November 28 — and the horse banned from racing for 30 days from November 20.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HILLHEAD
(2.30 Newton Abbot)

Hillhead is a particularly sound jumper of fences and should appreciate the significant drop in class and soft ground at Newton Abbot after two good efforts in better company at Wincanton.

Next Best: Deano's Beeno
(3.30 Newton Abbot)

GEORGE SHELTON

Williamson and Herbert Lodge are clear at the last fence before the jockey's error handed the race to Kapco

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

FIRST NATIONAL BANK GOLD CUP CHASE
Ascot, November 22

GUIDE TO THE PRICES

	Hills	Ladbrokes
Simply Dashing	7-4	7-4
Or Royal	9-2	9-2
Jeffell	6-1	5-1
Fine Thyne	7-1	7-1
[illegible]	8-1	11-1
Around The Gale	12-1	10-1
Stately Home	12-1	12-1
Wild West Wind	12-1	14-1
[illegible]	14-1	12-1
[illegible]	20-1	14-1
Art Prince	25-1	25-1
Greenback	25-1	25-1
Monks Soham	33-1	33-1

ONLY Ladbrokes and William Hill offer prices on the First National Bank Gold Cup Chase at Ascot on Saturday, and they are agreed in making Simply Dashing, the mount of Richard Dunwoody, a warm favourite at 7-4.

Simply Dashing ran out a comfortable winner on his reappearance at Wetherby, beating the subsequent Murphy's Gold Cup winner, Senor El Betrutti, by 15 lengths. That form is the reason for his cramped odds on Saturday, but should not be taken at face value, as that three-runner race was slowly run and the runner-up not fully fit. Simply Dashing will find this more competitive and offers no value at 7-4.

Or Royal was third to Sparky Gayle in the Cathcart Chase at Cheltenham but the handicapper does not appear to have taken any chances in evaluating that form. Jeffell is the only Irish-trained entry, and his trainer, Arthur Moore, sent out Weather The Storm to win this in 1987. He is an intended runner, with Conor O'Dwyer booked to ride, but his best form is over two miles.

Fine Thyne is lightly raced for an eight-year-old, having run just 14 times, winning seven. His form last season includes four wins and a narrow defeat at the hands of Call Equiname, who won a competitive race at Cheltenham on Friday. He made a successful return to action in a weak contest at Stratford last month, which should have put him spot on for this weekend. Open to further improvement, FINE THYNE is an excellent wager at 7-1.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER

1.10 The Butterwick Kid
1.40 Rye Crossing
2.10 Hoh Explorer
2.40 CERTAINLY STRONG (nap)
3.10 Lord Of The West
3.40 Leap In The Dark

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.40 LEAP IN THE DARK.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.10 MALTON RACING ASSOCIATION NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,134: 2m) (23 runners)

1 0-3 ALZOTIC 17 (B Parker) J Norton 4-11-0 E Callaghan (3) 88
2 0-P0602 CAULKER 9 (T Barnes) M Barnes 4-11-0 S Taylor (5) 78
3 233400- FALCON'S FLAME 252 (V Thompson) V Thompson 4-11-0 Mr M Thompson 80
4 3 FISIOSTAR 31 (C Graham) M Dods 4-11-0 R McGrath (5) 85
5 FLOWER MILLER 60F (W Barker) D Barker 4-11-0 D Bentley —
6 600-6 GALE FORCE 9 (B) (G Dinger) P Beaumont 5-11-0 R Supple —
7 22 GOLDEN THUNDERBOLT 17 (V) (Cosmic Promotions Ltd) N Tinkler 4-11-0 R Dunwoody 104
8 0P- JOLLY HEART 166 (Lady Anne Bentinck) O Brennan 7-11-0 M Brennan —
9 F-4 JOSS BAY 24 (Mrs J Young) T Tate 5-11-0 K Johnson —
10 60-3 KIT SMARTIE 10 (D Forster) D M Forster 5-11-0 B Storey 92
11 4P2658-5 MELTEMISON 9 (Lady Swan Racing Club) M Hammond 4-11-0 R Garritty 120
12 0 MY GODSON 6 (Linkchallenge Ltd) M Dods 7-11-0 K Smith —
13 558- REVOLT 305 (C Stevens) T Easterby 5-11-0 A Thornton 80
14 06- SARAS DELIGHT 138 (Mrs D Jackson) D Nicholson 6-11-0 A Maguire —
15 5 SEVEN MILE GALE 8 (M Birmingham) G Richards 5-11-0 A Dobbin —
16 3402P- SOUTHERN CROSS 221 (D,S) (J Hall) M W Easterby 5-11-0 B Fenton 103
17 10- SPIRIT OF STEEL 237 (BF,D,S) (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 4-11-0 J Callaghan —
18 45- SWANDALE FLYER 196F (A Caballero) N Bycroft 5-11-0 B Grattan (5) 73
19 06 SYCAMORE LODGE 10F (D Lever) M Pettit 6-11-0 D Parker 87
20 TAKE NOTICE 171F (J Skinny) M Wane 4-11-0 J Supple —
21 4- THE BUTTERWICK KID 12F (B Chambers) R Fahey 4-11-0 F Leahy (5) 97
22 TROJAN RISK 21F (A Peake & D Jackson) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-0 P Niven —
23 2- YOUNG TOMO 187 (M Thompson) J Howard Johnson 5-11-0 Mr B Dorack (7) —

BETTING: 4-1 Revolt, 6-1 Southern Cross, 7-1 Golden Thunderbolt, 8-1 Meltemison, Trojan Risk, 10-1 others.

1996: MEETING ABANDONED — SNOW

FORM FOCUS Caulker 1¾l 2nd of 8 to Elusive Star in novice handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good) with Meltemison (28lb better off) 47l 5th. Falcon's Flame 14l 8th of 14 to Rothari in novice handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good). Fisiostar 12l 3rd of 14 to Superpride in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good to firm) with Caulker (same terms) 20l 7th and Sycamore Lodge (1lb better off) a distance 12th. Golden Thunderbolt 25l 2nd of 4 to Banker Count in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to firm) with Alzotic (same terms) 33l 3rd. Kit Smartie 4¾l 3rd of 5 to Lord Podgski in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to firm). Revolt 7l 2nd of 19 to Alzulu in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good). Saras Delight 32l 6th of 20 to Melody Maid in NH flat race at Worcester (2m, good to firm). Seven Mile Gale a distance 5th of 10 to Kings Measure in NH flat race at Carlisle (2m 1f, good). Southern Cross 3l 3rd of 11 to Major Hards in novice hurdle here (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Swandale Flyer 3l 3rd of 17 to Tawafij in novice hurdle at Perth (2m 110yd, good). The Butterwick Kid 9¾l 4th of 14 to Chief Mouse in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good). Young Tomo 6l 2nd of 14 to Greenmoss in NH flat race at Perth (2m 110yd, good to soft).

REVOLT has a clear chance on his second to the smart Alzulu

1.40 PROFESSOR PETER ALEXANDER NOVICES CHASE
(£3,600: 3m 1f) (6 runners)

1 704-521 MAYBE O'GRADY 18 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs A Bell) W Cunningham 8-11-6 M Smith 93
2 11241-F FOREST IVORY 10 (G,S) (Old Foresters Plus) D Nicholson 6-11-6 A Maguire —
3 020013- JERVAULX 175 (S) (R Ogden) G Richards 6-11-0 R Dunwoody —
4 01P/P2/ KIDLAW 753 (F,S) (J Walby) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-0 P Niven —
5 151P/F2 KING GIRSEACH 18 (S) (Blakeley Painters Ltd) J Turner 8-11-6 R Supple 90
6 24/3-P2 RYE CROSSING 7 (BF) (C Stevens) T Easterby 7-11-0 R Garritty 87

BETTING: 4-5 Forest Ivory, 5-1 Jervaulx, 6-1 Maybe O'Grady, Rye Crossing, 8-1 Kidlaw, 10-1 King Girseach.

FORM FOCUS Maybe O'Grady beat King Girseach (5lb better off) 12l in 4-runner novice chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good to firm). Forest Ivory fell in grade II novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). Jervaulx a distance 3rd of 6 to Pappa Charlie in novice hurdle at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Kidlaw 9l 2nd of 4 to Gale Ahead in novice chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good). Rye Crossing 9l 2nd of 11 to Chipped Out in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good).

FOREST IVORY should be given the chance to atone for his Chepstow fall

2.10 HENDERSON INSURANCE BROKERS LTD JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,819: 2m) (10 runners)

1 5 BERNIE'S STAR 56F (B Rayner) N Bycroft 10-12 R Supple 80
2 BROCTUNE LINE 27F (D Playforth) Mrs M Reveley 10-12 P Niven —
3 43 GOOD JUDGE 15 (J Brown & M Dennis) M Hammond 10-12 A Dobbin 85
4 HOH EXPLORER 60F (Sallire Racing Syndicate) D Barker 10-12 J Callaghan —
5 6 LORD DISCORD 17 (A Bray) T Easterby 10-12 R Thornton (3) 84
6 2 THE REAL MCCOY 15 (Mrs J Ramsden) Mrs J Ramsden 10-12 A Maguire 87
7 TICKNTIMA 12F (A Peake) M Hammond 10-12 R Garritty —
8 AVRO AVIAN 120F (B Stanton) M Camacho 10-7 E Callaghan (3) —
9 0 SILENT VALLEY 13 (V) (Mrs S Cooper) Miss L Siddall 10-7 T Siddall (7) 40
10 TEDDY'S BOW 82F (Mrs A Jarvis) M W Easterby 10-7 P Midgley (5) —

BETTING: 5-2 The Real Mccoy, 7-2 Broctune Line, 4-1 Good Judge, 5-1 Lord Discord, 10-1 others.

FORM FOCUS *Bernie's Star* 9¾l 5th of 8 to Dissington Times in 3yo novice hurdle at Hexham (2m, good to firm). Broctune Line won over 11f on AW this season. Hoh Explorer moderate staying maiden on Flat. Lord Discord 37l 6th of 7 to Monarch's Pursuit in grade II novice hurdle here (2m, good to firm). The Real Mccoy 1¾l 2nd of 10 to Eponine in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to firm) with Good Judge (same terms) 5¾l 3rd. Silent Valley 58l 11th of 15 to Lavitacea in 3yo novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good). Teddy's *Bow has been running at sprint trips on Flat.*

LORD DISCORD can profit from the drop in class

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 (12) 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating.

2.40 MITSUBISHI MOBILE PHONES LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE
(£6,697: 2m) (6 runners)

1 2292-15 CELIBATE 17 (D,F,G,S) (Stamford Bridge Pans) C Mann 6-11-7 R Dunwoody 146
2 /12052- MAJOR BELL 250 (F,G,S) (A Wallace) A Whillans 9-11-3 A Dobbin 144
3 11/1F0- CERTAINLY STRONG 250 (BF,D,F,G,S) (N Skelton) D Nicholson 7-11-2 A Maguire 140
4 4P/323- NATIVE MISSION 284 (D,G,S) (G Shoular) J FitzGerald 10-11-0 F Leahy (5) 136
5 2514-61 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 18 (CD,F,G,S) (Cumbrian Ind Ltd) T Easterby 8-10-7 R Garritty 144
6 3431-36 DOWN THE FELL 17 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Johnson) J Johnson 8-10-7 Mr S Durack (7) 142

BETTING: 3-1 Certainly Strong, 7-2 Celibate, 4-1 Cumbrian Challenge, 9-2 Major Bell, 6-1 Native Mission, 13-2 Down The Fell.

FORM FOCUS Celibate 17l 5th of 8 to Indian Jockey in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good) with Down The Fell (2lb better off) 20l 6th. Major Bell 4l 2nd of 10 to Sparky Gayle in chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good). Certainly Strong 17l 6th of 16 to Uncle Ernie in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Native Mission 5¾l 3rd of 7 to Mister Oddy in handicap chase at Newbury (2m 1f, good to soft). Cumbrian Challenge beat Tapatch 16l in 4-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, good to firm).

CERTAINLY STRONG, from a stable in fine form, can make a winning reappearance

3.10 LAMBSON HANDICAP CHASE (£3,710: 3m 1f) (3 runners)

1 3P2F-11 LORD OF THE WEST 8 (S) (Duchess of Westminster) J J O'Neill 8-12-2 (6ex) A Maguire 120
2 F-32411 SPEAKER WEATHERILL 10 (F,G) (Lady Anne Bentinck) O Brennan 8-12-0 M Brennan 118
3 3036-24 PIMS GUNNER 24 (D,F,G,S) (A Chappell) M Hammond 9-10-5 A Dobbin 117

BETTING: 11-10 Lord Of The West, 11-8 Speaker Weatherill, 5-1 Pims Gunner

FORM FOCUS Lord Of The West beat Pennine Pride beaten a distance in 2-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good to firm). Speaker Weatherill beat Golden Hello 28l in 5-runner handicap chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to firm). Pims Gunner beaten a distance 4th of 5 to Hermes Harvest in handicap chase at Market Rasen (3m 1f, good)

LORD OF THE WEST is progressing well and has another good opportunity

3.40 MARSHALL CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,373: 2m 4f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 25/22-0 HIGHBANK 18 (C,F,G) (P Dodd) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-10 M H Naughton (8) 106
2 41F4-24 SCARBA 12 (G,S) (Yorkshire RC Owners Group) J Johnson 9-11-6 M Mello (10) 114
3 F26F-46 BRANCHER 6 (F,G) (Blakeley Painters Ltd) J Turner 6-10-11 R Burns (7) 102
4 1223143 LEAP IN THE DARK 8 (D,F,S) (Mrs D Morris) Miss L Siddall 8-10-9 T Siddall (8) 117
5 2012FF- AMAZING SAIL 178 (BF,F) (Marlboro) Miss M Milligan 4-10-6 E Callaghan —
6 3305-23 SIX CLERKS 83 (S) (Marquess de Moratalla) J FitzGerald 4-10-1 F Leahy (3) 109

BETTING: 3-1 Leap In The Dark, 4-1 Scarba, Six Clerks, 9-2 Highbank, 11-2 Brancher, 8-1 Amazing Sail.

FORM FOCUS Highbank beaten a distance last of 7 to Potter's Gale in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft). Scarba 19l 4th of 10 to Spendid in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good to soft). Brancher 16l 6th of 8 to Well Appointed in handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good). Leap In The Dark 9¾l 3rd of 6 to Mike Stan in novice handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, good). Amazing Sail fell in novice handicap hurdle at Cartmel (2m 6f, good to firm). Six Clerks 6¾l 3rd of 4 to Country Orchid in handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good to firm).

LEAP IN THE DARK faces an easier task than when third at Carlisle

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs M Reveley	52	190	27.4	R Dunwoody	10	32	31.3
D Nicholson	16	61	26.2	P Niven	47	176	26.7
G Richards	28	115	24.3	A Maguire	23	102	22.5
T Easterby	15	73	20.5	B Grattan	3	16	18.8
J Johnson	16	82	19.5	E Callaghan	5	27	18.5
J Jefferson	6	34	17.6	A Dobbin	19	112	17.0
J Fitzgerald	15	95	15.8	F Leahy	5	37	13.5

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Newton Abbot

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 8 winners from 20 runners, 40.0%; P Hobbs, 55 from 179, 30.7%; D Burchell, 6 from 20, 30.0%; C Brooks, 6 from 22, 27.3%; M Pipe, 104 from 385, 27.0%; P Nicholls, 37 from 145, 25.5%.

JOCKEYS: D J Burchell, 6 winners from 16 rides, 37.5%; R Massey, 3 from 9, 33.3%; A McCoy, 56 from 172, 32.6%; G Bradley, 14 from 46, 30.4%; C Webb, 4 from 17, 23.5%; T J Murphy, 8 from 39, 20.5%; G Tormey, 7 from 39, 17.9%.

Lingfield Park

TRAINERS: V Soane, 4 winners from 15 runners, 26.7%; C Thornton, 4 from 16, 25.0%; J Berry, 37 from 175, 21.1%; Lord Huntingdon, 49 from 241, 20.3%; Mrs J Cecil, 7 from 39, 17.9%; W O'Gorman, 21 from 121, 17.4%.

JOCKEYS: Emma O'Gorman, 23 winners from 120 rides, 19.2%; C Lowther, 5 from 27, 18.5%; R Cochrane, 68 from 399, 17.0%; M Hills, 25 from 164, 15.2%; T Quinn, 49 from 328, 15.0%; S Whitworth, 40 from 283, 14.1%.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER

1.00 Champleve. 1.30 Zabadi. 2.00 Touch Silver. 2.30 Friendly House. 3.00 Shamarphil. 3.30 Deano's Beeno. *4.00 Muskhill.*

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.00 DEVON NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,295: 2m 1f) (11 runners)

1 F-61 CHAMPLEVE 31 (S) M Pipe 4-11-8 A P McCoy —
2 22-1 DINES 10 (S) P Nicholls 5-11-6 T J Murphy 113
3 0/ DESERT POWER 657F D Burchell 6-11-0 D J Burchell —
4 /F-5 DTOTO 27 R Baker 5-11-0 V Slattery 65
5 4AV EZZY'S BOY 745 S Mellor 9-11-0 C Webb (5) —
6 HIGH RISK LAD 1196F A Dunn 5-11-0 S McNeill —
7 /P-P MILESTONE 78 N Ayliffe 5-11-0 Guy Lewis (3) —
8 4-3 MILFORD SOUND 31 P Hobbs 4-11-0 G Tormey 60
9 66-5 ZAGGY LANE 13 Mrs R Henderson 5-11-0 N Rossiter (7) —
10 60-4 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GIRL 12 I Williams 6-10-9 R Johnson 76
11 000- SEE MINNOW 234 Miss S Waterman 4-10-9 N Willmington (7) —

5-4 Champleve, 6-4 Dines, 5-1 Milford Sound, 12-1 Knightsbridge Girl, 14-1 Dtoto, 16-1 Ezzy's Boy, 20-1 others.

1.30 WEST COUNTRY NOVICES CHASE
(£2,846: 2m 110yd) (6)

1 341- FOURTH IN LINE 195 (D,G,S) M Wilkinson 9-10-12 W Marston —
2 50-2 LAKE KARIBA 31 (D,G,S) P Nicholls 5-10-12 T J Murphy 130
3 2F5- MOUSE BIRD 291 (S) D Gandolfo 7-10-12 A P McCoy 97
4 05/2 PADRE MIO 18 (B,D,G,S) C Brooks 9-10-12 G Bradley 110
5 302- ROBINS PRIDE 243 (D,G,S) C Popham 7-10-12 M A Fitzgerald 107
6 52-3 ZABADI 14 (BF,D,G,S) D Nicholson 5-10-12 R Johnson 108

7-4 Padre Mio, 3-1 Zabadi, 4-1 Lake Kariba, 8-1 Fourth In Line, 10-1 others.

2.00 WISHFUL THINKING SELLING HURDLE
(£1,751: 2m 1f) (8)

1 344P TOUCH SILVER 12 (D,S) H Manners 7-11-12 A Dowling (7) 80
2 0/P- ALBERT THE LION 437 (V) J Neville 5-10-12 R Johnson —
3 2 BRIGHSTONE 15F (BF) M Pipe 4-10-12 A P McCoy 70
4 3562 COEUR BATTANT 40 (D,F) R Baker 7-10-12 V Slattery 68
5 P-PP GRANSTOWN LAKE 4 (S) A Barrow 6-10-12 Mr G McPhail (7) —
6 /P-0 HAYDOWN 19 M R Bosley 5-10-12 Mr P Phillips (7) —
7 0 IRISH SEA 11 B Llewellyn 4-10-12 G Tormey —
8 P0- SASSY STREET 77F R Johnson Houghton 4-10-12 D Gallagher —

4-7 Brighstone, 7-2 Coeur Battant, 8-1 Touch Silver, 14-1 Sassy Street, 25-1 Granstown Lake, Irish Sea, 33-1 Albert The Lion, Haydown.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 1.20 Figawin, Rapid Reliance, Lookingforlove Del. 2.20 Master Bobby. 3.20 Witchfinder Newton Abbot: 1.30 Padre Mio. 2.00 Albert The Lion. Wetherby: 1.10 Gale Force, Golden Thunderbolt. 2.10 Silent Valley

2.30 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,819: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

1 631- GEMMA'S WAGER 199 (D,G) M Campion 7-11-10 W McFarland 92
2 530- FRIENDLY HOUSE 251 (BF,S) M Pipe 8-11-10 A P McCoy 95
3 /U1- HOLD YOUR RANKS 251 (S) R Frost 10-11-7 J Frost 90
4 4124 HILLHEAD 10 (BF,F) R Buckler 8-11-5 B Powell 102
5 55-3 WONDERFULL POLLY 13 (S) P Nicholls 9-11-0 L Cummins (5) 99
6 332- LUKE WARM 190 D Gandolfo 7-10-11 G Bradley —
7 0/30 RAGAMUFF 26 P Hobbs 6-10-9 C Maude —
8 P50- DUNNICKS COUNTRY 257 F Tucker 7-10-0 M Griffiths (7) —
9 APU CHARLES QUAKER 10 M Saloman 7-10-0 P Holley —

3-1 Hillhead, 4-1 Friendly House, 9-2 Hold Your Ranks, 11-2 Wonderfull Polly, 6-1 Luke Warm, 8-1 Gemma's Wager, 10-1 Ragamuff, 33-1 others.

3.00 CLAUDE WHITLEY MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP
(Handicap chase: £3,293: 3m 2f 110yd) (5)

1 505- DOM SAMOURAI 275 (B,S) M Pipe 6-11-13 A P McCoy 105
2 165- BRAMBLEHILL BUCK 274 (CD,S) P Nicholls 8-11-10 T J Murphy 108
3 -5U5 TUG OF PEACE 10 (F,G,S) G Balding 10-11-7 B Clifford 85
4 00P- PENNCALER 237 (S) P Hobbs 7-10-3 C Llewellyn 95
5 042- SHAMARPHIL 249 (C,S) R Alner 11-10-1 Miss S Barraclough 94

2-1 Dom Samourai, 5-2 Bramblehill Buck, 4-1 Penncaler, 9-2 Tug Of Peace, 8-1 Shamarphil.

3.30 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,762: 2m 6f) (8)

1 105- DEANO'S BEENO 228 (C,S) M Pipe 5-11-13 A P McCoy 115
2 F6-F HARBET HOUSE 8 (S) R O'Sullivan 4-11-6 M A Fitzgerald —
3 5/0- MUSICAL MONARCH 301 (C,G,S) N Henke 11-10-11 C Maude 98
4 5/0- MUNTAFI 384 (S) D Burchell 6-10-1 J R Kavanagh —
5 1131 GERRY'S PRIDE 8 (CD,F,S) J Mattice 6-10-1 (6ex) C Llewellyn 118
6 313- DEFENDTHEREALM 181 (CD,S) R Frost 6-10-0 A Holdsworth 109
7 6F3- ROYALE ANGELA 588 (BF,S) J Neville 5-10-0 R Johnson —
8 -064 ROSIE-B 13 (CD,G) L Waring 7-10-0 M Griffiths (7) 108

2-1 Deano's Beeno, 11-4 Gerry's Pride, 7-2 Harbet House, 8-1 Defendtherealm, 14-1 Royale Angela, 16-1 Musical Monarch, 20-1 Muntafi, 25-1 Rosie-B

4.00 BOUNDERIES INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,201: 2m 1f) (16)

1 /1-1 KNOCK LEADER 8 (G,S) M Pipe 5-11-11 A P McCoy —
2 1 MUSKHILL 18 (D,G) D Nicholson 5-11-11 R Massey (3) —
3 AIRBOURNE PRINCE H Babbage 5-11-4 L Harvey —
4 BEEFY NOVA N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 C Llewellyn —
5 CAPTAIN BIGGLES L Cottrell 5-11-4 D Salter (3) —
6 CO'VERS PORT R Johnson Houghton 4-11-4 D Gallagher —
7 DARK MAURADER R Frost 4-11-4 J Frost —
8 U- GOOD VIEW 197P D Nicholson 5-11-4 R Johnson —
9 NIGELLO R Alner 5-11-4 N Willmington (7) —
10 0- OUR MAN FLIN 230 D Chesney 4-11-4 P Holley —
11 SANDORAN M Hill 4-11-4 C Webb (5) —
12 P TEMPERED STEEL 6 D Gandolfo 6-11-4 G Upton —
13 VELLATOR A Dunn 5-11-4 Mr R White (5) —
14 WILLET WIZARD Miss V Stephens 4-11-4 Miss V Stephens —
15 TAKETHETOPOFF A Hobbs 4-10-13 G Shenkin (7) —
16 WHEN IT RAINS D Burchell 4-10-13 D J Burchell —

6-4 Muskhill, 7-4 Knock Leader, 8-1 Beefy Nova, 16-1 Good View, 20-1 others

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.20 Mijas. 12.50 Palacegate Jack. 1.20 Prince Oxley. 1.50 Bawsian. 2.20 Bedouin Honda. 2.50 Castles Burning. 3.20 Nant Y Gamer. 3.50 Barbason.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
12.20 BLUE LAMP (nap).

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

12.20 SALAMANCA HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,440: 5f) (10 runners)

101 0601 ANOKATO 12 (B,CD,F) K Ivory 3-10-0 Martin Dwyer 7
102 0000 MIJAS 12 (CD,F) L Montague Hall 4-9-11 F Lynch 6
103 0001 DANCING MYSTERY 29 (B) E Wheeler 3-9-9 S Carson (7) 9
104 4942 NOBALINO 14 Mrs N Macauley 3-9-4 S Drowne 10
105 0200 MYSTICAL 12 (V,D,G,S) Mrs L Stubbs 3-9-3 S Whitworth 2
106 4402 BLUE LAMP 5 (BF) M Jarvis 3-8-8 R Cochrane 4
107 0-00 COLSTON-C 27 (F) P Evans 5-8-5 J Quinn 8
108 -030 MIDNIGHT TIMES 102 D O'Brien 3-8-2 A Whelan (3) 5
109 0030 LUCY IN THE SKY 35 B Meehan 3-7-13 Dale Gibson 3
110 1144 OPENING RANGE 61 (BF,D,F) N Berry 6-7-12 N Adams 1

5-2 Anokato, 7-2 Nobalino, 5-1 Dancing Mystery, 7-1 Blue Lamp, 10-1 Opening Range, Lucy In The Sky, 12-1 others.

12.50 SALAMANCA HANDICAP
(Div II: £2,427: 5f) (10)

201 1042 PALACEGATE JACK 12 (B,D,F,G,S) J Berry 6-9-12 C Lowther (3) 5
202 1006 TEAR WHITE 51 (D,F) T Mills 3-9-9 Lisa Hackett (7) 2
203 0406 FRIENDLY BRAVE 12 (CD,S) Miss G Kelleway 7-9-7 A Whelan (3) 7
204 0000 GOODBYE GATEMEN 12 (D,G) B Pearce 3-9-4 Leesa Long 9
205 1423 FEATHERSTONE LANE 82 (D,F) Miss L Siddall 6-9-0 M Wigham 1
206 0460 MISTER RAIDER 48 (B,CD,F) E Wheeler 5-8-13 B O'Leary (7) 10
207 4250 TACHYCARDIA 61 (C,D,F) R O'Sullivan 5-8-2 J Quinn 8
208 3005 FINARTS BAY 12 (B) Mrs J Cecil 3-8-2 Martin Dwyer 4
209 2000 RENNYHOLME 93 (D) A Mulholland 6-7-13 L Charnock 6
210 0000 TOMMY TEMPEST 48 (CD,F,S) R Peacock 8-7-10 J Bramhill 3

2-1 Palacegate Jack, 9-2 Friendly Brave, 6-1 Finarts Bay, 7-1 Featherstone Lane, Tear White, 10-1 Tachycardia, 12-1 Mister Raider, 14-1 others

1.20 VITTORIA SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £1,999 7f) (13)

301 4453 FIGAWIN 120 (E) S Dow 8-11 T Quinn 4
302 - LE GENEREUX M Channon 8-11 R Perham 12
303 0 LONESOMAN 35 Mrs L Stubbs 8-11 S Whitworth 5
304 0006 MYSTAGOGUE 17 R Hannon 8-11 Dane O'Neill 7
305 000 PRINCE OXLEY 25 G L Moore 8-11 A Clark 13
306 1050 RAPID RELIANCE 8 (B,G) R Ingram 8-11 A McGlone 9
307 5504 SLIM PRIOR 29 K Burke 8-11 D Sweeney (3) 1
308 1250 BERMUDA TRIANGLE 46 (F) M Haynes 8-6 C Lowther (3) 10
309 0 CHI-LIN 26 J Pitch-Heyes 8-6 A Whelan (3) 3
310 0 MY BIRD 42 W Jarvis 8-6 J Quinn 2
311 4000 JONATHAN'S GIRL 5 J Bridger 8-6 P Doe (7) 6
312 000 LOOKINGFORLOVE DEL 17 (B) N Callaghan 8-6 S Drowne 11
313 0002 MILLA'S MAGIC 5 F Ivory 8-6 N Adams 8

5-2 Rapid Reliance, 7-2 Mystagogue, 9-2 Milla's Magic, 5-1 Figawin, 10-1 Bermuda Triangle, 12-1 Slim Prior, 12-1 others

1.50 MALAYA NURSERY (2-Y-O: £3,174: 1m) (9)

401 0401 NIGHT VIGIL 5 (CD) B Hills 9-9 (6ex) M Hills 4
402 334 GOLDFILL 53 W O'Gorman 9-7 Emma O'Gorman 9
403 0061 BAWSIAN 14 (D,G) J Eyre 9-4 S Buckley (7) 6
404 8002 AL'S FELLA 18 P Cole 9-2 T Quinn 2
405 2200 LIFT THE OFFER 25 R Hannon 9-1 Dane O'Neill 3
406 004 HIGHBURY LEGEND 131 Bob Jones 8-9 D Biggs 1
407 6560 MISS SKYE 28 T Naughton 8-1 F Norton 5
408 0000 LARAMANIA 14 P Evans 7-12 A McCarthy (7) 7
409 0U00 ZADA 10 G L Moore 7-10 J Quinn 8

5-4 Night Vigil, 4-1 Al's Fella, 9-2 Bawsian, 8-1 Lift The Offer, 10-1 others.

2.20 BUSALO MAIDEN (3-Y-O: £2,294: 1m 2f) (11)

501 3000 BEDOUIN HONDA 15 (E) C Brittain 9-0 R Cochrane 6
502 00 CLONOE 12 R Ingram 9-0 A McGlone 7
503 0402 DON'T WORRY MIKE 9J J Spearing 9-0 C Lowther (3) 9
504 0350 INKWELL 12 G L Moore 9-0 M Wigham 2
505 5405 MASSYAR SEVENTEEN 21 H Collingridge 9-0 J Quinn 4
506 4000 MASTER BOBBY 5 (B) R Flower 9-0 S Drowne 1
507 8 FAIRY FINGERS 35 J Eyre 8-9 R Lappin 5
508 0-60 MARIE RAMBERT 80 C Dwyer 8-9 J Gotobed (7) 10
509 -040 MISKIN HEIGHTS 26 K Burke 8-9 D Sweeney (3) 11
510 0000 MISS IMP 42 P Mitchell 8-9 A Clark 3
511 0520 SIPWA 113 D O'Brien 8-9 Dane O'Neill 8

2-1 Bedouin Honda, 11-4 Don't Worry Mike, 4-1 Sipwa, 10-1 Inkwell, 12-1 others.

2.50 CORUNNA HANDICAP (£2,882: 1m 4f) (17)

601 3152 STATE APPROVAL 17 (BF,D,F) P Eccles 4-10-0 G Faulkner (5) 1
602 0312 STATAJACK 12 (B,BF,C,D,F,G,S) D Elsworth 9-9-11 T Quinn 17
603 5034 MASTER BEVELED 5 (V,BF,C,F,G,S) P Evans 7-9-10 S Whitworth 7
604 0416 CASTLES BURNING 12 (C,D,F) C Cyzer 3-9-7 R Cochrane 5
605 5035 SODEN 22 (C,F) T Mills 3-9-6 Lisa Hackett (7) 13
606 0660 ADMIRALS SECRET 28 (CD,F,G) C Wall 8-8-13 M Tebbutt 10
607 3300 TIME CAN TELL 62 (G) C Murray 3-8-12 Nicola Howarth 2
608 2003 ROYAL ROULETTE 28 Mrs B Sanders 3-8-11 A Clark 8
609 4000 HAROLDON 14 (D,F,G) B Palling 8-8-11 T Sprake 3
610 0056 JUNIKAY 17J (G) R Ingram 3-8-10 A McGlone 14
611 0000 TARTAN PARTY 8 W Muir 3-8-7 Martin Dwyer 15
612 0100 NOBLE 18 (D,F) W Musson 3-8-1 D O'Shea 4
613 0000 ABSOLUTELYSTUNNING 11 Mrs Waring 4-7-12 P P Murphy (3) 9
614 -060 AREISH 29J J Pitch-Heyes 4-7-10 L Charnock 11
615 005 MOONSHIFT 56 H Collingridge 3-7-10 Dale Gibson 6
616 3054 COLOUR COUNSELLOR 5 (B,D,F,G) R Flower 4-7-10 J Quinn 12
617 R0/4 ANOTHER MONK 817J R Ingram 6-7-10 N Adams 16

9-2 Statajack, 11-2 State Approval, 13-2 Master Beveled, 10-1 others.

3.20 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Qualifier: Div I: £2,492: 7f) (9)

1 1611 NANT Y GAMER 25 (D,F,G) J Berry 3-9-13 Le Tolboll 6
2 -005 SALTY JACK 17 (F) V Soane 3-9-12 R Cochrane 2
3 0036 NAPIER STAR 12 (V) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-10 S Webster 8
4 0330 TAILWIND 123 (F) W Muir 3-9-5 Martin Dwyer 9
5 0300 WHISPERED MELODY 26J (F) R Akehurst 4-8-12 T Quinn 4
6 7500 WITCHFINDER 35 (V) Mrs L Stubbs 5-8-4 S Whitworth 5
7 -000 SWYNFORD CHARMER 33 J Hetherton 3-7-10 J Lowe 1
8 4264 MUSTANG 141 (B,D) C Thornton 4-7-10 L Charnock 3
9 0240 ROCKY WATERS 48 (V,C,D,F,G) M Usher 8-7-10 A Nicholls (7) 7

2-1 Nant Y Gamer, 5-1 Napier Star, 6-1 Mustang, 7-1 Rocky Waters, 8-1 others.

3.50 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Qualifier: Div II: £2,479: 7f) (8)

1 3184 BARBASON 12 (BF,CD,F) G L Moore 5-9-13 Candy Morris 3
2 5243 MIKE'S DOUBLE 28 (B,BF) Miss Kelleway 3-9-10 A Whelan (3) 8
3 1205 DUNMER GOLF TIME 17 (V) Ld Huntingdon 4-9-9 Dane O'Neill 2
4 0614 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 5 (V) P Evans 3-9-2 A McCarthy (7) 6
5 0041 CHALLIZ 4 (D) K Burke 3-8-11 (6ex) D Sweeney (3) 1
6 0020 CHURCHILL'S SHADOW 28 B Pearce 3-8-1 Martin Dwyer 5
7 0000 AEGEAN SOUND 5 (G) K Ivory 3-7-10 N Adams 7
8 0000 INTO DEBT 57 (E,CD) J Poulton 4-7-10 R Brisland (7) 4

15-8 Dunmer Golf Time, 100-30 Barbason, 9-2 Italian Symphony, 10-1 others

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Leicester

Going: good

12.50 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, *Native Shore* (Mr K B O'Ryan, 5-2); 2, Quistaquay (2-1 fav); 3, Fun While It Lasts (15-2). 11 ran. 1¼l, 19l. C Mann. Tote: £3.30; £1.30, £1.10, £2.20. DF: £5.10. Trio: £7.80. CSF: £7.13. Tricast: £29.28.

1.20 (2m hdle) 1, Cointosser (S Wynne, 9-4; Timekeeper's top rating); 2, Brecon (2-1 fav); 3, Mustang Scally (25-1). 15 ran. 2l, 10l. M Pipe. Tote: £4.00; £1.90, £1.20, £9.50. DF: £8.30. CSF: £6.68. Trio: £188.60 (part won. Pool of £108.93 carried forward to Lingfield 2.50 today).

1.50 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, The Whole Hog (N Williamson, 11-4); 2, Alaskan Heir (5-2). Jimmy O'Dea 11-10 fav. 3 ran. 2l. K Bailey. Tote: £2.50. DF: £3.40. CSF: £7.32.

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, Potter's Gale (R Johnson, Evens fav); 2, New Inn (6-1); 3, Star Selection (4-1). 5 ran. 7l, 1½l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £2.00. DF: £3.40. CSF: £6.62.

2.50 (2m 1f ch) 1, Kapco (G Bradley, 11-4); 2, Herbert Lodge (4-11 fav). 3 ran. 2l. C Brooks. Tote: £3.60. DF: £1.90. CSF: £4.01.

3.20 (2m hdle) 1, Gipsy Geof (R Elkins, 7-1); 2, Cut De Sac (13-8 fav); 3, Your Fellow (12-1). 13 ran. Hd, 4l. G Hubbard. Tote: £9.30; £2.40, £1.50, £2.30. DF: £15.90. Trio: £52.00. CSF: £18.69.

3.50 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Beechfield Flyer (G Tormey, 14-1); 2, El Don (3-1); 3, Nawar (20-1). Meniena (6th) 7-4 fav. 10 ran. 1¾l, 3½l. W Clay. Tote: £11.90; £2.30, £1.90, £4.10. DF: £22.50. Trio: £92.10. CSF: £51.12. Tricast: £786.87.

Placepot: £64.80

Quadpot: £23.60.

Plumpton

Going: soft (heavy in places)

1.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Lansdowne (L Cummins, 11-8 fav); 2, Fontaneys (7-2); 3, Daimes (3-1). 7 ran. 2½l, 16l. P Nicholls. Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £1.80. DF: £3.70. CSF: £5.54.

1.30 (2m 5f ch) 1, Karar (D O'Sullivan, 3-1; Thunderer's nap); 2, Native Venture (5-2); 3, Joker Jack (20-1). Indian Run (4th) 9-4 fav. 5 ran. 1l, 9l. R Rowe. Tote: £3.90; £2.30, £2.00. DF: £5.20. CSF: £10.20.

2.00 (2m ch) 1, Antonio Mariano (L Aspell, 25-1); 2, Buckland Lad (11-4); 3, Dr Rocket (7-2). Supermick (fell) 11-10 fav. 5 ran. NR: Friendly Knight. 6l, 14l. P Mooney. Tote: £22.60; £7.00, £4.20. DF: £64.70. CSF: £80.38.

2.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Iranos (A P McCoy, 4-7 fav); 2, Jet Files (14-1); 3, Macy (7-1). 7 ran. 9l, ¾l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.60; £1.50, £2.60. DF: £9.00. CSF: £9.11.

3.00 (2m 5f ch) 1, Wishing William (J Tizley, 7-2); 2, Ring Corbitts (7-1); 3, Primitive Streak (16-1). Rosevalley (f) 7-4 fav. 8 ran. 11l, dist. Miss H Knight. Tote: £4.00; £2.00, £1.80. DF: £13.20. CSF: £24.06.

3.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Fill The Bill (A P McCoy, 6-5 fav); 2, Infamous (5-4); 3, Just Nip (6-1). 5 ran. NR: Burning Flame. 6l, 18l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.90; £1.80, £1.50. DF: £2.50. CSF: £2.81.

Placepot: £93.50 Quadpot: £46.40

Southwell

Going: standard

12.10 (1m) 1, Dust (W Ryan, 9-2); 2, Legal Issue (2-1 fav); 3, Chadleigh Lane (7-1). 13 ran. ¾l, 6l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £5.10; £1.90, £1.50, £1.10. DF: £6.70. Trio: £16.70. CSF: £12.52.

12.40 (1m 6f) 1, Pharly Dancer (A Culhane, 16-1); 2, Avanti Blue (6-1); 3, Whitley Grange Boy (11-4 fav). 14 ran. 6l, nk. W Haigh. Tote: £14.80; £3.70, £2.90, £1.60. DF: £45.20. Trio: £39.60. CSF: £103.44. Tricast: £329.17.

1.10 (1m) 1, Democrat (G Duffield, 7-2); 2, Grooms Gold (100-30); 3, Awesome Venture (7-1). Daintree 3-1 fav. 12 ran. 3l, 9l. M Prescott. Tote: £4.90; £1.30, £2.00, £3.00. DF: £16.10. Trio: £48.10. CSF: £17.12.

1.40 (6f) 1, Wilton (M Tebbutt, 16-1); 2, Eminent (evens fav); 3, Sera Moon Classic (8-1). 15 ran. Nk, 2l. J Hetherton. Tote: £36.90; £8.70, £1.20, £2.30. DF: £24.70. CSF: £34.98. Trio: £146.20

2.10 (6f) 1, Classy Cleo (J F Egan, 7-2); 2, Ruscian Romeo (8-1); 3, Celical Air (2-1 fav). 8 ran. 2l, hd. P Evans. Tote: £4.00; £1.60, £1.50, £1.60. DF: £22.10. CSF: £32.95. Tricast: £68.09.

2.40 (6f) 1, Phoenix Princess (L Newton, 4-1 fav); 2, Comche Quest (8-1); 3, Newlands Corner (5-1); 4, Songsheet (6-1). 16 ran. 2l, 2½l. B McMahon. Tote: £4.50; £1.50, £2.30, £4.10. DF: £24.60. Trio: £50.90. CSF: £41.92. Tricast: £217.49.

3.10 (1m 3f) 1, Burundi (M Tebbutt, 5-1); 2, Greenspan (4-6 fav); 3, Miami Moon (8-1). 13 ran. 12l, 1l. A Carroll. Tote: £7.30; £2.40, £1.20, £2.40. DF: £8.20. Trio: £31.60. CSF: £10.16.

3.40 (1m 6f) 1, Notation (P Fessey, 5-1); 2, La Menorquina (6-1); 3, Hippios (14-1). Drama King 4-1 fav. 13 ran. 4l, 8l. D Chapman. Tote: £7.60; £2.20, £2.30, £3.60. DF: £38.00. Trio: £227.40. CSF: £41.51. Tricast: £404.40

Jackpot: not won (pool of £10,989.72 carried forward to Lingfield tomorrow).

Placepot: £22.70 Quadpot: £12.10.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Coca-Cola Cup

Fourth round

Arsenal v Coventry (8.0)
Derby v Newcastle (7.45)
Leeds v Reading (7.45)
Liverpool v Grimsby (7.45)
Middlesbrough v Bolton (7.45)
Oxford Utd v Ipswich (7.45)

Nationwide League

First division

Bradford v Sheffield Utd (7.45)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottm Forest	17	10	4	3	26	14	34
Swindon	18	10	4	4	25	22	34
West Brom	17	10	4	3	21	13	34
Middlesbro	16	9	4	3	30	15	31
Sheff Utd	15	8	6	1	24	13	30
Charlton	17	8	5	4	30	21	29
Stockport	18	7	5	6	29	25	26
Sunderland	17	7	5	5	25	20	26
Wolves	18	7	5	6	21	20	26
Stoke	17	7	5	5	20	18	26
Port Vale	18	7	4	7	25	23	25
Bradford	17	6	7	4	16	16	25
QPR	17	6	5	6	21	27	23
Birmingham	18	5	7	6	18	15	22
Bury	18	4	8	6	20	26	20
Norwich	17	5	4	8	14	26	19
Tranmere	17	5	3	9	23	24	18
Crewe	18	5	3	10	22	29	18
Reading	18	4	6	8	17	26	18
Oxford	18	4	5	9	20	26	17
Ipswich	16	3	7	6	16	21	16
Man City	17	3	6	8	20	21	15
Portsmouth	17	3	5	9	20	28	14
Huddersfld	18	3	5	10	13	30	14

Second division

Bournemouth v Southend (7.45)
Bristol City v Plymouth (7.45)
Burnley v Millwall (7.45)
Carlisle v Chesterfield (7.45)
Fulham v York (7.45)
Gillingham v Blackpool (7.45)
Northampton v Brentford (7.45)
Preston v Bristol Rovers (7.45)
Watford v Oldham (7.45)
Wycombe v Wrexham (7.45)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	17	12	3	2	30	11	39
Bristol C	17	10	3	4	27	14	33
York	17	8	4	5	24	20	28
Millwall	16	8	4	4	23	16	28
Northampton	17	7	7	3	18	12	28
Oldham	17	7	6	4	29	25	27
Wrexham	16	7	4	5	24	20	25
Gillingham	17	7	4	6	22	22	25
Chesterfld	17	6	7	4	19	16	25
Blackpool	17	7	3	7	26	29	24
Fulham	17	6	5	6	16	12	23
Preston	17	6	4	7	17	14	22
Bournemouth	17	5	7	5	17	17	22
Bristol R	17	6	3	8	22	23	21
Grimsby	17	5	6	6	17	17	21
Wycombe	17	5	5	7	26	29	20
Wigan	17	5	4	8	23	27	19
Plymouth	17	4	7	6	22	24	19
Southend	17	5	3	9	16	32	18
Burnley	17	3	8	6	18	21	17
Walsall	17	4	5	8	18	22	17
Luton	17	4	5	8	17	27	17
Carlisle	17	4	4	9	21	30	16
Brentford	17	4	4	9	18	27	16

Third division

Barnet v Torquay (7.45)
Cambridge Utd v Brighton (7.45)
Cardiff v Hull
Chester v Peterborough
Colchester v Notts County (7.45)
Darlington v Leyton Orient
Exeter v Mansfield (7.45)
Hartlepool v Rochdale
Lincoln v Doncaster (7.45)
Rotherham v Scunthorpe (7.45)
Scarborough v Swansea
Shrewsbury v Macclesfield (7.45)

Spalding Cup

Second round

Hayes v Slough (7.45)
Morecambe v Leek (7.45)
Woking v Kettering (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Rothwell; Dorchester v Crawley (7.45). Gloucester v Bromsgrove. Halesowen v Burton Albion (7.45). Nuneaton v King's Lynn. Tamworth v Gresley. Midland division: Bedworth v Hinckley Utd, Ilkeston v Ilkeston, Blakenhall v Corby; Moor Green v Stourbridge; Redditch v Sutton Coldfield Town; Stafford v Solihull Borough. Southern division: Newport (IoW) v Weymouth, Waterlooville v Tonbridge Angels, Witney v Trowbridge; Yate v Newport AFC.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Blyth Spartans v Emley (7.45). First division: Matlock Town v Lincoln United, Worksop v Belper Town. Unifilla First Division Cup: First round: Gretna v Workington; Netherfield v Great Harwood; Alston v Trafford

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Kingstonian v Gravesend and Northfleet (7.45). First division: Berkhamsted v Wembley; Wokingham v Grays. Second division: Braintree v Banstead, Marlow v Windsor and Eton, Northwood v Wivenhoe, Tooting and Mitcham v Bracknell. Third division: Hadwell Heath v Camberley Town. Guardian Insurance Cup: Second round: Hendon v Canvey Island. Second round replay: Aveley v Basingstoke. Full Members Cup: First round: Hitchin v Boreham Wood. Associate Members Trophy: Second round: Lewes v Horsham

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Elmore v Bridport

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien Butchers Premier division Cup: Brimsdown v Barkingside

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: David Lloyd AFC v Kings Heath.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Presidents Cup. Leicester YMCA v Barlestone St Giles

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss v Lowestoft; Ely v Newmarket, Fakenham v Bury Town; Halstead v Felixstowe Port and Histon v Stowmarket. Sudbury v Harwich and Parkeston. Tiptree v Sudbury Warboys v Soham; Woodbridge Town v Clacton. Wroxham v Gorleston

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: BAT v Brockenhurst. Gosport v AFC Newbury, Thatcham Town v Portsmouth

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division. Ashford v Westfield, Farnham v Cove. Merstham v Cranleigh; Sandhurst v Hartley Wintney. Premier Challenge Cup: Cobham v Bedfont.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill v Portfield; Whitehawk v Hailsham

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Halesowen H v Barwell. Invitation Cup: Boldmere St Michaels v Shifnal T. Bridgnorth v Studley BKL. Wednesfield v Shepshed D

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough v Mossley. Kidsgrove v Maine Road. Salford v Prescot Cables

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v M Blackstone: Bourne v Stamford. Cogenhoe v Ford Sports; Eynesbury v Potton; Long Buckby v Buckingham; S and L Corby v W Borough

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hatfield Main v Liversedge.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP: Semi final, first leg: Dundalk v Shelbourne (7.45)

RUGBY UNION

Tour matches

Blackheath v Tonga XV (7.45)
Emerging England v New Zealand XV (at Huddersfield, 7.45)
Scottish Borders v ACT (at Mansfield Park, Hawick, 7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European Cup: Group E: London Towers v Belgrade (8.0). Classic Cola National Cup: Quarter-final: Birmingham Bullets v Worthing Bears (7.30)

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation Inter-continental featherweight championship: S Robinson (Cardiff, holder) v A Johnson (Trin) (at Mansfield Leisure Centre).

ICE HOCKEY: European League: Dynamo Moscow v Manchester Storm. Superleague: Sheffield Steelers v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.30)

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (at Preston)

Brian Glanville casts his eye over the weekend's qualifiers for France

World Cup party list nears completion

Chile pipped Peru on goal difference on Sunday to become the fourth team to qualify for the World Cup finals from the South American section. They will join Argentina, Colombia and Paraguay in France next summer.

The Chileans won 3-0 against Bolivia — never much of a team away from the heights of La Paz — in the ill-famed national stadium of Santiago, where so many political prisoners perished after the Pinochet revolution.

Seventy-five thousand spectators saw the game, in which no fewer than three Bolivians were sent off during the second half. However, Chile were already 2-0 up before the first sending-off.

Four minutes from time, after Carrena, the Chile substitute, had headed his team's third, he was kicked by Sanchez, of Bolivia, who became the third player shown the red card.

Marcelo Salas, the prolific Chile striker now with River Plate, of Buenos Aires, scored his team's second goal near half-time from the edge of the penalty area. He was watched by Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, whose interest in the player persists.

Argentina, already qualified, drew 1-1 in Buenos Aires with Colombia, who thrashed them there 5-0 in the 1994 World Cup eliminators. Valderrama put Colombia ahead; Caceres, the Argentina defender, equalised.

Daniel Passarella, the Argentina manager, has at last agreed to select Gabriel Batistuta, his best striker, after a nine-month stand-off. But Argentina are not a convincing team and Passarella may also have to reconsider his veto on Redondo, the Real Madrid midfield player, who is out of favour, apparently because he refused to get his hair cut.

Terry Venables takes Australia to Tehran on Saturday for the first leg of the play-off with Iran for the one outstanding ticket to France. David Hill, the Australia federation president, said: "I couldn't think of a worse place to get to at short notice. It's a logistical nightmare."

No fewer than 16 of the Australia squad are playing in Europe. They left yesterday to get together in Dubai, where the rest of the team will join them from Singapore. It has not yet been decided when the players will cross the border into Iran.

The Australian federation does, however, plan to charter a plane to get its players out of Tehran as quickly as possible; the return leg is scheduled to take place in Melbourne on Saturday week.

The Iranians lost their qualifier in Malaysia to Japan on Sunday night, though they were leading 2-1 until late on. A "golden goal" decided the contest in extra time, scored by Masayuki Okano in the 25th minute of "sudden death".

This was an enormous relief to the Japanese, who qualified as a result and who will be staging the 2002 World Cup jointly with South Korea. The J League, already suffering from diminished attendances, could well have collapsed had the national team failed to reach France.

Japan can, however, play some elegant football. Muira, a forward who learnt his trade with Santos in Brazil, took a huge pay cut to play, unsuccessfully, in Italy with Genoa. He nevertheless remains a player of great ability.

Jamaica celebrated qualification with a national holiday. Had all those who wanted to get into the stadium done so on Sunday, instead of the 35,000 who did, the crowd at the goalless draw with Mexico would undoubtedly have been trebled in size.

Jamaica's English contingent — Deon Burton, of Derby County, and Fitzroy Simpson and Paul Hall, both of Portsmouth — have undoubtedly transformed the team, but there is plenty of local talent; Robbie Earle, the Wimbledon midfield player, gets on only as a substitute.

Mexico left seven of their regular team out of the game in Kingston, having already qualified as the winners of the Concacaf group, but it is significant that they have only been able to draw their last three World Cup qualifiers.

What is more, two of them, against the United States and Costa Rica, took place in Mexico City, at whose breathless heights the Mexicans ought to enjoy an advantage.

Bora Milutinovic, the Mexico manager — who managed the United States in the 1994 World Cup, Costa Rica in 1990 and Mexico themselves in 1986 — is under heavy fire. Something has gone wrong with his team, but it looks as though the manager will be allowed to try to put it right.

Jamaica supporters celebrate qualification for France. They booked their tickets with a 0-0 draw against Mexico on Sunday. Photograph: John Kunz

Prospect of U-turn adds fizz to cup ties

By David Maddock and Russell Kempson

WITH the Football League saying yesterday that it was "confident" that a place in the Uefa Cup could yet be the prize for the winners of the Coca-Cola Cup this season, the six fourth-round ties tonight have an added appeal.

A League delegation travelled to Brussels last week for talks with officials from the European Commission about the decision of football's European governing body to withhold a place. "We have the full support of the EU," Chris Hull, a League spokesman, said. "We are confident not only that we will persuade Uefa to grant an automatic place in Europe for the Coca-Cola Cup winners, but that they will do it in time to allow this season's winners to play in Europe next season."

The news may come as a relief for Roy Evans, who will surely be thinking that he is in a no-win situation this evening. His Liverpool side is expected comfortably to defeat Grimsby Town at Anfield, even though the Nationwide League second division team has already disposed of two FA Carling Premiership sides.

Not only did they knock out Leicester City, the leaders, but they also hastened the departure of David Pleat from Sheffield Wednesday with a 4-3 aggregate victory. However, Alan Buckley, their manager, said that it was unfair to think that Evans could suffer the same fate.

"This game is taking on an unrealistic air because of the pressure we are supposed to be putting on Roy Evans," he said. "It is ridiculous and totally unjustified. Fans seem to want instant success, but they must learn to be patient."

Arsenal will again field a shadow side for their tie against Coventry City at Highbury. Adams, Overmars and Vieira are injured, Seaman, Wright, Winterburn and Grimandi rested, Petit suspended and Ian Marte on international duty.

Coventry will be at full strength apart from Noel Whelan and John Salako, who have long-term injuries. Darren Huckerby, the striker, has recovered from a thigh strain.

Sultan feels lure of English football

By David Maddock

PETER JOHNSON, the Everton chairman, is prepared to sell the Merseyside club, but only if a prospective buyer meets his asking price of £70 million. There is, however, one man looking to buy into football who is quite capable of meeting such a fee — the Sultan of Brunei.

Johnson, heavily criticised by Everton supporters recently, has already turned down one offer of £50 million for his stake in the club he purchased for £20 million two seasons ago. Yesterday, he dismissed reports of a possible sale, but it is understood that he would be prepared to sell at a figure above the present City valuation — around £50 million.

Two potential purchasers have refused to meet that figure, but the Sultan — and his cousin, the Prince of Brunei — is actively seeking to buy a football club in England, and has recently been approached about Everton by a third party.

The Prince is a sports fanatic and employs Jim Pearson, the former Everton forward, as a consultant to coach his private team and arrange visits from top sportsmen to the kingdom.

The Prince has asked for a list of English clubs that might be available for sale and he is also investigating the potential of Manchester City, Coventry City and Queens Park Rangers.

The Sultan is one of the richest men in the world but, despite his great wealth, it is unlikely that a deal could be brokered at Johnson's present asking price. The Sultan, together with the Prince, is more likely to concentrate on a comparatively undervalued club such as Manchester City.

Dean Jones, the Barnsley defender, has become the latest player to fail a drugs test. Jones, 20, tested positive after traces of amphetamine were discoverd in a random test at the club's training ground on October 27.

He has been charged with misconduct by the FA and was immediately suspended with the agreement of Barnsley, pending his appearance before a disciplinary commission, likely to take place within the next few weeks.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

BARLEY VILLAGE, Lancashire: Tour of Pendle fell race (17M, 4250ft): Men: 1, J Blackett (Mendale) 2hr 25min 06sec; 2, M Horrocks (Clayton-le-Moors) 2:25:27; 3, M Palmer (Forest of Dean) 2:25:29; 4, M Wells (Clayton-le-Moors, M40) 2:25:31; 5, T Holden (Clayton-le-Moors) 2:28:10; 6, M Proctor (Clayton-le-Moors) 2:28:19. Over-40: J Holt (Clayton-le-Moors, 11th) 2:30:50. Over-50: K Carr (Clayton-le-Moors, 20th) 2:39:18. Over-55: R Bell (Ambleside, 66th) 2:56:11. Over-60: D Brown (Clayton-le-Moors, 102nd) 3:13:48. Team: 1, Clayton-le-Moors 17pts; 2, Dark Peak 121; 3, Bowland 149. Women: 1 A Mudge (Camethy, 21st) 2:36:28 (course record); 2, V Peacock (Clayton-le-Moors, W40) 2:46:29; 3, K Thompson (Clayton-le-Moors) 3:13:02.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 89 L A Clippers 83; New Jersey 77 Cleveland 72; Phoenix 98 Houston 94; Seattle 119 Milwaukee 92; L A Lakers 121 Vancouver 95.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sheffield Sharks 88 Birmingham Bullets 70; London Leopards 93 Chester Jets 85.

	P	W	L	Pts
London Towers	11	10	1	20
Thames Valley	11	9	2	18
Birmingham	8	8	0	16
Leopards	12	8	4	16
Manchester	10	6	4	12
Newcastle	11	6	5	12
Chester	9	5	4	10
Sheffield	9	5	4	10
Worthing	14	5	9	10
Leicester	12	4	8	8
Derby	11	3	8	6
Crystal Palace	12	3	9	6
Watford	14	0	14	0

BILLIARDS

PRESTON: United Kingdom championship: First round: M Wildman (Eng) bt M Spoormans (Bel) 416-397; P Gilchrist (Eng) bt S Nalaby (Eng) 576-390; M Ferreira (India) bt B Dix (Eng) 640-284; R Foldvari (Aus) bt E Hughes (Ire) 405-227; R Close (Eng) bt C Everton (Wales) 388-348; D Causier (Eng) bt C Shutt (Eng) 1,207-383; A Kumar (India) bt S Hardcastle (Eng) 614-426. Second round: M Russell (Eng) bt Wildman 759-412; N Patel (India) bt A Agrawal (India) 750-382; I Williamson (Eng) bt R Williams (Eng) 342-319; R Chapman (Eng) bt S Agrawal (India) 783-405; Gilchrist bt Ferreira 650-268; Foldvari bt Close 430-326; Causier bt M Rahani (India) 960-408; B Bathi (India) bt A Kumar (India) 819-431.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Melbourne (final day of four): New Zealanders 82 and 173 (D J Sales 4-38); Victoria 175 and 80-5.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (final day of four): South Australia 462-9 dec and 190-6 (D Fitzgerald 85); Western Australia 503 (J L Langer 235, M E Hussey 134, T M Moody 78; P E McIntyre 4-175).

FOOTBALL

Sunday's late results

World Cup

SOUTH AMERICAN ZONE: Chile 3 Bolivia 0 (at Santiago); Peru 1 Paraguay 0 (at Lima); Uruguay 5 Ecuador 3 (at Montevideo); Argentina 1 Colombia 1 (at Buenos Aires).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	16	8	6	2	23	13	30
Paraguay	16	9	2	5	21	14	29
Colombia	16	8	4	4	28	15	28
Chile	16	7	4	5	32	18	25
Peru	16	7	4	5	19	20	25
Ecuador	16	6	3	7	22	21	21
Uruguay	16	6	3	7	18	21	21
Bolivia	16	4	5	7	18	21	17
Venezuela	16	0	3	13	8	41	3

CONCACAF ZONE: Jamaica 0 Mexico 0 (at Kingston); Costa Rica 3 Canada 1 (at San Jose); United States 4 El Salvador 2 (at Foxboro, Massachusetts).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	10	4	6	0	23	7	18
United States	10	4	5	1	17	9	17
Jamaica	10	3	5	2	7	12	14
Costa Rica	10	3	3	4	13	12	12
El Salvador	10	2	4	4	11	16	10
Canada	10	1	3	6	5	20	6

FRENCH LEAGUE: Le Havre 1 Strasbourg 1; Guingamp 1 Rennes 0.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Semi-final stage: Group A: Juventude 0 Vasco da Gama 3; Flamengo 1 Portuguesa 0. Group B: Palmeiras 1 Internacional 0; Atletico Mineiro 2 Santos 0.

GOLF

THOUSAND OAKS, California: Shark Shootout: Final scores (US unless stated): 188: S McCarron and B Lietzke 66, 59, 59. 189: S Hoch and D Duval 68, 62, 59. 191: P Jacobsen and J Cook 62, 67, 62. 192: M Calcavecchia and A Magee 65, 67, 60; F Zoeller and J Daly 65, 65, 62. 193: T Kite and J Haas 70, 67, 56; B Faxon and L Janzen 65, 65, 62. 197: L Wadkins and C Stadler 71, 64, 62. 198: Greg Norman (Aus) and S Elkington (Aus) 71, 63, 64. 199: C Beck and D Frost (SA) 71, 66, 62.

BUENOS AIRES: Argentine Masters: Leading final scores: 277: B Langer (Ger) 73, 69, 68, 67. 278: E Romero (Arg) 69, 74, 67, 68. 280: P Stewart (US) 73, 73, 68, 66. Other score: 284: P Azinger (US) 69, 72, 73, 70.

HOCKEY

SHA MEN'S CUP: Fifth round: Barford Tigers v Reading; Beeston v Southgate; Cannock v Old Loughtonians; Canterbury v Hounslow; Chichester v Hampstead and Westminster; Ipswich v Blackpool; Old Cranleighans v Spalding; St Albans v Doncaster.

☐ Ties to be played on November 30.

ENGLAND MEN'S WORLD CUP TRAINING SQUAD: B Barnes (East Grinstead); Mahmood Bhatti (East Grinstead); R Crutchley (Cannock); G Fordham (Hounslow); R Garcia (HDM, Holland); B Gaynor (Teddington); C Giles (Klein Zwitserland, Holland); D Hall (Guildford); J Halls (HDM, Holland); A Humphrey (Cannock); M Johnson (Cannock); M Kocher (Reading); J Lee (Old Loughtonians); J Lewes (Cannock); D Luckes (East Grinstead); S Mason (Reading); C Meyer (Cannock); M Pearn (Reading); J Pickock (Cannock); B Sharpe (Cannock); A Simons (Southgate); N Thompson (Old Loughtonians); J Wallis (Teddington); W Waugh (Southgate); D Woods (Southgate); J Wyatt (Reading).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Rangers 4 Colorado 1; Vancouver 4 Carolina 1; Philadelphia 3 Tampa Bay 2; Dallas 4 Anaheim 0; Chicago 3 Detroit 3 (OT)

SUPERLEAGUE: Cardiff Devils 4 Sheffield Steelers 3; Manchester Storm 8 Basingstoke Bison 3; Newcastle Cobras 5 Bracknell Bees 4 (OT).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester	11	6	3	2	51	36	15
Ayr	8	6	2	0	52	20	13
Nottingham	9	6	2	2	38	26	13
Sheffield	8	4	4	1	33	35	10
Cardiff	7	3	2	2	23	20	8
Bracknell	9	3	5	1	30	48	8
Basingstoke	8	2	5	2	24	34	7
Newcastle	10	2	8	0	35	43	4

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY: Premier division: Old Welconians 11 Poynton 7; Timperley 9 Hurstians 9; Cheadle Hulme 1 Stockport 10; Mellor 7 Cheadle 8; Sheffield University 7 Bolanian and Bodish 14.

FIELD HOCKEY

QUEENS CUP: British Land British Open: Men: Bridgeo: First round: N Wood bt S Brocklehurst 6-0, 6-2, 6-1; M Eadie bt R Gunn 6-4, 6-4, 6-0; H Latham bt J Willock 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2; A Lyons bt N Pendrigh 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. Bracket: First round: J Snow and J Male bt J Hilsdon and M Eadie 6-1, 6-0, 6-1; R Gurin and P Tolley bt M Seigmour and A Davis 6-4, 6-1, 6-3; A Phillips and N Woods bt J Willock and B Ronaldson 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; W Davies and F Filippelli bt J Dawes and S Virgona 6-4, 6-4, 6-3; C Bray and M Heppell bt P Jarvis and J Acheson-Gray 6-0, 6-0, 6-2; G Hyland and B Dale bt H Latham and B Johnson 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

RUGBY UNION

COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals: Cheshire 14 Gloucestershire 15; North Midlands 20 Yorkshire 17; Surrey 18 Buckinghamshire 0.

UNDER-21 TOURNAMENT: London 31 North 6 (Imber Court).

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Marlborough College 29 Clifton College 29; Millfield 39 Crossley Heath 3.

TENNENT'S VELVET SHIELD: Quarter-final draw: Hamilton Academicals v Dunfries; Falkirk v Ayr; Stewarty v Livingston; Lochaber v Corstorphine; Hutchesons'/Aloysians v Biggar FP; Howe of Fife v Hawick Trades; Stewart's Melville FP v Kinross; Penicuik v Berwick; Cumnock v Wigtownshire; RAF Lossiemouth v Hillhead/Jordanhill; Dunfermline v Cumbernauld; Haddington v Dunsi; Alloa v Aberdeenshire; Allan Glen's v Forrester; Preston Lodge v Glenrothes; St Bowell's v Selkirk.

TENNENT'S VELVET BOWL: Final-round draw: Wayfarers/Drumpellier v Morgan FP; Perthshire v Premiers; Hawick Harlequins v Ackworth; Strathclyde University v Marr; St Andrews University v Strathaven; Lismore v Cambuslang; Carlisle OP v Edinburgh University; Clydebank v Inverleith; Ellon v Dunbar; Helensburgh v Whitecraigs; Carnoustie HSFP v Hillhead; North Berwick v Edinburgh Northern; Highland v Orkney; Pencaitland v Ross High; Lasswade v Royal High; Arran v Strathmore.

SNOOKER

PRESTON: Liverpool Victoria UK championship: Second round: P Ebdon (Eng) bt G Gray (Eng) 9-6; J Prince (N Ire) bt D Herott (Eng) 9-5; S Lee (Eng) bt P Hunter (Eng) 9-5; C Small (Scot) bt M Bennett (Wales) 9-1; A Hamilton (Eng) bt T Shaw (Eng) 9-2; J Ponting (Eng) bt J Higgins (Scot) 9-4; J Burnett (Scot) bt M Price (Eng) 9-6; O'Kane (NZ) bt W Snaddon (Scot) 9-6; J Henn (Aus) leads N Bond (Eng) 5-3; Evans (Eng) leads S Davis (Eng) 4-3; D Dowdeswell (Scot) leads J Swail (N Ire) 5-3; A Hicks (Eng) level with L Richardson (Eng) 4-4.

SPEED SKATING

ROSEVILLE, Minnesota: World Cup: Men 500m: 1, J Wotherspoon (Can) 36.57sec; 2, Y Miyabe (Japan) 36.62; 3, G Niles (Nz) 37.09; 4, J Bos (Holl) 37.14; 5, T Kuroiwa (Japan) 37.22; equal 6, M Horii (Japan) and C Fitzrandolph (US) 37.27. 1,000m: 1, J Leeuwagn (Holl) 1min 13.80sec; Wotherspoon 1:13.88; 3, Bos 1:13.96; 4, J Wennemars (Holl) 1:14.54; 5, Lee Kyu-Hyuk (S Kor) 1:14.68; 6, S Bouchard (Can) 1:14.98. Women: 500m: 1, S Auch (Can) 39.86sec; 2, C Lakey-Dean (Can) 39.90; 3, F Schenk (Ger) 39.98; 4, S Voiker (Ger) 40.28; 5, M Morton (Can) 40.74; 6, S Zhurova (Russ) 40.80. 1,000m: 1, Lakey-Dean 1min 20.99sec; 2, S Voiker (Ger) 1:22.01; 3, A Loef-Seiler (Ger) 1:22.89; 4, C Witty (US) 1:22.69; 5, S Kusunoses (Japan) 1:22.98; 6, E Sannikya (Japan) 1:23.13.

TENNIS

PHILADELPHIA: Advanta women's championship (US unless stated): Final: M Hingis (Switz) bt L Davenport (US) 7-5, 6-7, 7-6.

LAS VEGAS: Lexor USTA challenger tournament: Final: C Vinck (Ger) bt A Agassi (US) 6-2, 7-6.

PATTAYA, Thailand: Volvo Women's Open: First round: T Tanasugarn (Thai) bt R Harki (Japan) 6-4, 6-3; S Kohlova (Cz) bt T Panova (Russ) 1-6, 7-5, 6-2; O Barabanschikova (Bela) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 3-6, 7-6, 6-2; Park Sung-Hee (S Kor) bt E Kulikovskaya (Russ) 6-2, 5-7, 6-4; A Elwood (Aus) bt E Gagliardi (Switz) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; N Pratt (Aus) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-3, 6-3; L Courtois (Bel) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-1, [illegible]

ATP RANKINGS: 1, P Sampras (US) 4,547pts; 2, P Rafter (Aus) 3,210; 3, M Chang (US) 3,189; 4, J Bjorkman (Swe) 2,948; 5, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 2,650; 6, G Rusedski (GB) 2,617; 7, C Moya (Sp) 2,508; 8, S Bruguera (Sp) 2,367; 9, T Muster (Austria) 2,339; 10, M Rios (Chile) 2,317; 11, R Krajicek (Holl) 2,289; 12, A Corretja (Sp) 2,275; 13, P Korda (Cz) 2,261; 14, G Kuerten (Br) 2,216; 15, G Ivanisevic (Cro) 2,178; 16, F Mantilla (Sp) 2,110; 17, T Henman (GB) 1,929; 18, M Philippoussis (Aus) 1,809; 19, A Costa (Sp) 1,778; 20, C Pioline (Fr) 1,534; 21, J Courier (US) 1,528; 22, M Norman (Swe) 1,450; 23, A Berasategui (Sp) 1,425; 24, K Kucera (Slovakia) 1,420; 25, M Larsson (Swe) 1,378; 26, T Woodbridge (Aus) 1,319; 27, A Medvedev (Ukr) 1,314; 28, T Enqvist (Swe) 1,312; 29, F Santoro (Fr) 1,294; 30, C Woodruff (Aus) 1,234; 143, A Richardson (GB) 312; 151, C Wilkinson (GB) 295; 154, M Petchey (GB) 292; 210, D Spatford (GB) 200; 285, M Lee (GB) 129; 294, L Milligan (GB) 121; 321, M Maclagan (GB) 104; 364, J Delgado (GB) 84; 401, B Cowan (GB) 70; 450, A Palmer (GB) 59.

VOLLEYBALL

OSAKA, Japan: World Grand Champions Cup: Men: China 3 Holland 1; Japan 3 Australia 0; Brazil 3 Australia 0; Cuba 3 China 0; Holland 3 Japan 2. Women: Brazil 3 South Korea 0; Russia 3 Japan 0; Cuba 3 China 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Tooting Aquila 3 Crofton Sportswearhouse 0; Leeds 3 Whitefield 0; Malory Lewisham 3 Stoke 0; Polonia Ealing 3 Liverpool 1; Sheffield 3 Wessex 0. Women: First division: Liverpool 3 Sheffield 0.

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday November 22

Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 A Villa v Everton X
2 Blackburn v Chelsea X
3 Derby v Coventry 1
4 Leicester v Bolton 1
5 Liverpool v Barnsley 1
6 Newcastle v South'ptonX
7 Sheff Wed v Arsenal X
8 Wimbledon v Man Utd 2

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

9 Bury v Sunderland 2
10 Crewe v Stockport X
11 Man City v Bradford 1
12 Norwich v Oxford 1
13 Nottm For v Charlton 1
14 Port Vale v Sheff U 2
15 *Portsmouth v Wolves 2
16 QPR v Huddersfield 1
17 Reading v Ipswich 2
18 Swindon v Middlesbro 2
19 Tranmere v Stoke X

SECOND DIVISION

20 Blackpool v York X
21 Bournem'th v Carlisle 1
22 Bristol C v Wycombe 1
23 Grimsby v Burnley X
24 Luton v Walsall 2
25 Millwall v Chester'd 1
26 North'pton v Watford 2
27 Oldham v Brentford 1
28 Southend v Bristol R 1
29 Wigan v Preston X
30 Wrexham v Plymouth 1

THIRD DIVISION

31 Brighton v Cardiff X
32 Colchester v Lincoln 1
33 Derb'ton v Cambridge 2
34 Doncaster v Rochdale 1
35 Exeter v Shrewsbury 1
36 Hartlepool v Bristol 1
37 Leyton O v Notts Co 2
38 Macclesf'ld v Hull 1
39 Peterboro v Mansfield 1

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

40 Celtic v Dundee U 1
41 Dunf'mline v Aberdeen 1
42 Motherwell v Rangers 2
43 St Johnstone v Hibernian 1

FIRST DIVISION

44 Ayr v Airdrie X
45 Dundee v G Morton 1
46 Falkirk v Raith X
47 Partick v St Mirren 1
48 Stirling v Hamilton 2

SECOND DIVISION

49 Clyde v Inverness CT 1

* Pools panel to adjudicate

TREBLE CHANCE (Home teams): Aston Villa, Blackburn, Newcastle, Sheffield Wednesday, Crewe, Tranmere, Blackpool, Grimsby, Wigan, Brighton, Ayr, Falkirk.

BEST DRAWS: Blackburn, Sheffield Wednesday, Crewe, Blackpool, Brighton.

AWAYS: Manchester United, Sunderland, Middlesbrough, Walsall, Watford.

HOMES: Leicester, Liverpool, Norwich, Bournemouth, Bristol City, Oldham, Southend, Doncaster, Peterborough.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Leicester, Bristol City, Oldham, Southend, Doncaster. Aways: Sunderland, Middlesbrough, Watford. Draws: Blackburn, Blackpool, Brighton.

Vince Wright

☐ *All five of Vince Wright's best draws were correct last Saturday as well as his three draws on the fixed odds*

هكذا من الأصل

RUGBY UNION

Seven Lions emerge to play against All Blacks

By Mark Souster

JOHN HART, the New Zealand coach, yesterday expressed his disquiet that the Emerging England side to play New Zealand in Huddersfield tonight contains seven members of the British Isles party that toured South Africa in the summer and a total of 12 players already capped by England.

"It's hardly an emerging team," Hart said. "I'd have to say we are disappointed in the context of the way the tour was set up. This was supposed to be a tour in which we faced different opposition, but clearly Clive Woodward [the England coach] has decided we'll play England A every midweek game."

Given that John Bentley, who has been selected on the right wing, is 31 and won his first full cap nine years ago, Hart has a point. Austin Healey, who plays at scrum half, Paul Grayson, Mark Regan, Graham Rowntree, Simon Shaw and Neil Back, the captain, are the other Lions who toured South Africa to be included. Indeed, Healey and Grayson came on as replacements for England in the draw against Australia at Twickenham on Saturday.

Hart was at pains to stress that he is not unhappy with the quality of the opposition. "It is not the fact of who we are playing, it is the principle," he said. "It is not in the spirit of the tour.

"The New Zealand union wrote to the English union about that three weeks ago and, as of last night, we had not even had the decency of a reply. I hope they don't do us the disservice of calling it Emerging England. I hope they call it as it is — England A. But I'm not worried about it."

The Rugby Football Union denies that there is a hidden agenda. It believes that the situation was clarified several weeks ago and that it was accepted that each of the three midweek fixtures would, in effect, be against England A sides.

New Zealand can take it as a compliment that the England management has selected such a powerful side. Certainly, it is one in which several players will use the opportunity to reassert their international claims.

"It is a big challenge for us and it's probably the most important game on tour for the midweek team," Hart said. "Several of the team must consider themselves unlucky not to be in the Test side, so they will have huge motivation."

After their comprehensive defeat of Ireland at Lansdowne Road on Saturday, New Zealand have selected what is at present their second string. But Jonah Lomu will be hoping to bring forward his return to international rugby and Carlos Spencer will look to put pressure on Andrew Mehrtens, the incumbent All Black fly half.

Josh Kronfeld, who came on as a substitute in Ireland, starts on the open side; Charles Riechelmann, a replacement for the injured Robin Brooke, is also included.

Sean Fitzpatrick's knee injury, though, appears to be more serious than was at first thought. The New Zealand captain is almost certain to miss the international on Saturday and may not play on the tour at all.

TEAMS

EMERGING ENGLAND: J Mallinder (Sale), J Bentley (Newcastle), N Greenstock (Wasps), M Allen (Northampton), T Beim (Sale), P Grayson (Northampton), A Healey (Leicester), G Rowntree (Leicester), M Regan (Bath), D Garforth (Leicester), S Shaw (Wasps), D Grewcock (Saracens), R Jenkins (Harlequins), N Back (Leicester, captain). C Sheasby (Wasps). Replacements: R Butland (Bath), M Wood (Wasps), K Yates (Bath), N McCarthy (Gloucester), D Simms (Gloucester), M Corry (Leicester).

NEW ZEALAND: T Miller (Waikato), T Umaga (Wellington), S McLeod (Waikato), W Little (North Harbour), J Lomu (Counties Manukau), C Spencer (Auckland), M Robinson (North Harbour), M Allen (Central Vikings), A Oliver (Otago), G Slater (Central Vikings), M Cooksley (Waikato), C Riechelmann (Auckland), T Blackadder (Canterbury, captain), J Kronfeld (Otago), S Surridge (Canterbury).

PETE TRIEVNOR

Thomas, left, and Stimpson are joined at the launch by Dave Kelaher and Ray Lehner, of Oxford University

New European test for students

By Mark Souster

A NEW, high-profile international tournament to foster and promote university rugby, sponsored by *The Times*, was launched in London yesterday. *The Times* Students' European Rugby Championship (SERC) will feature 16 of Europe's best university teams from six countries — England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, France and Italy. It is expected to become the most important championship for European student rugby.

The decision to organise such a championship, which also has financial backing via a grant from The Foundation for Sport and Arts, was prompted two years ago by a determination to revive the tradition of universities as centres of rugby excellence.

Ted Wood, the honorary secretary of SERC, said: "Universities need to be playing demanding midweek and weekend fixtures and have informed coaching. We have always welcomed the benefits that come from association with senior clubs but, at the same time, we believe that the interests of many young players are best served by a vigorous tradition of same-age rugby within institutes of higher education."

The ability of universities to act as breeding grounds for talent was reinforced at Twickenham on Saturday. Five of England's starting line-up played for their universities. The expansion of league rugby, however, followed by the advent of professionalism, is eroding that base and the concern is that fewer players will undertake a higher education before moving to a club. Bob Reeves, a SERC committe member, said: "We are in danger of players ending up as in soccer, with careers over and no higher education."

Tim Stimpson, who has fallen out of favour with Newcastle and England and who attended the launch yesterday, believes the lessons he learnt at university are helping him through his present trough. "I had a fantastic three years at Durham, playing rugby and gaining a degree," he said. The things I learnt there developed me so much as a person and as a rugby player.

"It helps me to cope with times like this. It is vital to develop other interests away from the game."

Stimpson welcomed the idea of a top-level competition for universities. "It can only raise the quality of rugby at that level, like a finishing school," he said. "University rugby gave me the chance to play with intelligent players and also to experiment away from the pressure and must-win culture which exists in club rugby."

Justin Thomas, the Wales full back, agreed. Thomas, a former student at the University of Wales Institute of Cardiff, said that student rugby was "a breath of fresh air after the pressure of club rugby. It is only right that the profile of student rugby is lifted."

The 16 teams taking part have been divided into four groups, based in Durham, Cork, Cardiff and Toulouse. There will be a series of round-robin matches from December 15-19. The group winners will go on to the semi-finals on January 14, with the final to be played on January 31.

John Bryant, the deputy editor of *The Times*, said the newspaper was happy to be behind the championship. "It will enable the most talented of today's young university rugby players to reach their full potential. This tournament, alongside *The Times* FA Youth Cup, is further evidence of the paper's commitment to the future of sport," he said.

The 16 teams play in four groups in a round-robin tournament from Dec 15-19. Group winners qualify for the semi-finals on Jan 14, 1998 with the final on Jan 31. Semi-finals and final venues to be decided.

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4
Durham	Toulouse	Cardiff	Cork
Dublin	Loughborough	Exeter	Bristol
Rome	Northumbria	Edinburgh	Oxford
Swansea	University	Queen's	Welsh
	College Dublin	Belfast	Medicals
(at Durham)	(at Toulouse)	(at Cardiff)	(at Cork)

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Young reasserts the old order

By Oliver Holt

THE Carolina Panthers caused a shock of almost seismic proportions on the West Coast when they filched the National Football Conference western division title from the perennial holders, the San Francisco 49ers, last year. On Sunday, at what was formerly Candlestick Park, the Panthers dutifully stepped aside as the old order reasserted itself.

Inspired by their quarterback, Steve Young, who completed 17 of his 22 passes with no interceptions and threw for 221 yards, San Francisco brushed Carolina aside 27-19 to become the first team in the National Football League to guarantee a place in the end-of-season play-offs.

The 49ers have not lost this season since an opening-day defeat to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and after the Denver Broncos, the Minnesota Vikings and the Green Bay Packers all slumped to surprise defeats, they now possess the best record in the league, with ten victories to just one loss.

The last time they compiled such an impressive winning streak was in 1994, the most recent occasion that they won the Super Bowl, and gradually they are emerging as the outstanding team of the season. Their win on Sunday afternoon meant that they reached double figures in victories for the fifteenth consecutive season.

"It was a big win for our football team," Steve Mariucci, the 49ers' rookie coach, said. "It was important for the organisation to win the division. The first thing we talked about, the first goal we set way back in January, was to get the division back from Carolina, and it was very fitting and coincidental that it came today, against a good Carolina team."

Much has been made of the part played by the 49ers' running game in the team's renaissance, but on Sunday it was Young who was at the heart of everything positive that they produced. This time last year, pressed by Elvis Grbac, then the second-string quarterback, and battered by a series of concussions, Young was fighting to save his career. Now he is the master again.

"It feels good to take the title back from the team that had taken it from us so boldly last year," Young said. "There are a lot of good things happening right now with our team. But the funny thing is, with all the great things, the expectations are growing within the organisation, within ourselves."

If the expectations are growing in San Francisco, they must be shrinking in Green Bay. Invincible again at Lambeau Field this season, the Packers have been increasingly vulnerable away from their home field and on Sunday they were the victims in the biggest upset of the season. The Indianapolis Colts, who had lost their first ten games, vanquished the Packers 41-38 at the RCA Dome.

So much, then, for the acronym recently ascribed to the Colts — Count On Losing This Sunday. They fought back from what seemed to be yet another losing position against the Super Bowl winners last season before their kicker, Cary Blanchard, sealed the match with a 20-yard field goal in the dying seconds.

NFL DETAILS

RESULTS: New York Giants 19 Arizona 10; Atlanta 27 St Louis 21; Pittsburgh 20 Cincinnati 3; Kansas City 24 Denver 22; Indianapolis 41 Green Bay 38, Jacksonville 17 Tennessee 9; Detroit 38 Minnesota 15; Tampa Bay 27 New England 7, Philadelphia 10 Baltimore 10; New Orleans 20 Seattle 17 (OT); San Francisco 27 Carolina 19, New York Jets 23 Chicago 15; Dallas 17 Washington 14, Oakland 38 San Diego 13

Not including last night's match Miami v Buffalo

American Conference

Eastern division

	W	L	PF	PA
NY Jets	7	4	260	211
Miami	6	4	205	186
New England	6	5	261	192
Buffalo	5	5	170	225
Indianapolis	1	10	195	296

Central division

	W	L	PF	PA
Jacksonville	8	3	279	211
Pittsburgh	8	3	261	203
Tennessee	5	6	226	214
Baltimore	4	6	220	241
Cincinnati	3	8	194	263

Western division

	W	L	PF	PA
Denver	9	2	324	184
Kansas City	8	3	229	169
Seattle	6	5	250	256
Oakland	4	7	275	262
San Diego	4	7	215	289

National Conference

Eastern division

	W	L	PF	PA
NY Giants	7	4	211	200
Dallas	6	5	229	169
Washington	6	5	217	169
Philadelphia	4	6	180	224
Arizona	2	9	180	249

Central division

	W	L	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	3	271	217
Minnesota	8	3	253	239
Tampa Bay	8	3	235	178
Detroit	5	6	235	220
Chicago	1	10	182	315

Western division

	W	L	PF	PA
* San Francisco	10	1	278	139
Carolina	5	6	185	214
New Orleans	4	7	161	225
Atlanta	3	8	216	297
St Louis	2	9	192	285

* won division title

Scotland put faith in untried Hodge

By Kevin Ferrie

THE Scotland selectors yesterday continued to gamble when they asked Duncan Hodge to play at full back against Australia at Murrayfield on Saturday.

Last week they made Andy Nicol captain and picked four new caps — Grant McKelvey, Scott Murray, Adam Roxburgh and James Craig. However, Hodge's selection in a position in which he has never started a match, after the withdrawal of Rowen Shepherd, who injured a rib during Melrose's win over Boroughmuir on Sunday, is the biggest risk to date.

Hodge has been played as a centre for Edinburgh this season, having been previously regarded purely as a fly half. The switch has been made because the selectors do not want to upset the balance of their new-look threequarter line and also wish to use him as a place kicker.

Ironically, Hodge's sole appearance at full back was as a replacement for the Barbarians against Scotland in the Dunblane international at Murrayfield last year.

In a further change to the squad, Andy Reed, of Wasps, has withdrawn with a troublesome back and is replaced on the bench by Stuart Grimes, Hodge's Watsonians team-mate. Australia have delayed announcing their team until tomorrow because of doubts over four players. Andrew Blades went off during the match against England on Saturday because of a muscular problem in his back, Elton Flatley required stitches after losing a tooth, George Gregan suffered an eye injury and Tim Horan has bruising to a thigh.

SNOOKER

Higgins pays price for lack of respect

By Phil Yates

TWICE in three weeks, John Higgins has discovered to his cost that no fellow professional, however lowly ranked or inexperienced, can be underestimated. His latest lapse led to a totally unexpected defeat in the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship at Preston yesterday.

Higgins, beaten by Dominic Dale in the final of the grand prix last month, again found difficulty in coping with a little-known rival as he lost 9-4 to Gary Ponting, the world No 84 from Bristol, in the second round.

"I felt good but I suppose I was over-confident," Higgins said. "I don't think I gave Gary the respect he obviously deserves, and that's ridiculous because I should have learnt my lesson after what happened at the grand prix."

Trailing 7-1 after an opening session on Sunday that he described as "without doubt the worst I've ever played", the Scot, runner-up to Stephen Hendry last year, threatened to mount a fightback. Assisted by a break of 102 in the tenth frame, Higgins rallied to 7-4, but Ponting comfortably won the next two frames.

"I was rubbish. I was so bad it was embarrassing," Higgins said. "With these longer matches, the better players are supposed to come through; but all I've got to look forward to is watching it on television."

While Higgins left the Guild Hall in dejected mood last night, Ponting was hastily arranging overnight accommodation after pessimistically checking out of his original hotel. To extend his stay further, and reach the last 16 of a ranking event for the first time, he must overcome Dene O'Kane, of New Zealand, who beat Billy Snaddon 9-6.

"With John's record, he was deservedly favourite but, if you don't think you've got a chance, why bother turning up? All the shock results at the grand prix have given guys like myself a lift. It's made us believe the top players are beatable," Ponting said.

Steve Davis, a victim of one of the upsets at Bournemouth to which Ponting alluded, faced the prospect of an opening match reverse in the championship for only the second time since making his debut in 1979 when he trailed Gerard Greene 6-2 at the interval last night.

Meanwhile, Anthony Hamilton, of Nottingham, constructed the highest break of the championship so far, a 138 total clearance, during his 9-2 win over Troy Shaw. Jamie Burnett, who beat Mick Price 9-6, will provide Hamilton's next opposition.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Uncapped duo earn England call-up

■ **BASKETBALL:** Two uncapped players — Brian Basler, the 6ft 5in Derby Storm forward who has made an impressive start to the season, and Silas Cheung, who plays for Tirer in Germany — have been included in the squad of 14 named yesterday by Laszlo Nemeth, the England coach, for the beginning of their qualifying programme in the European championship. The campaign begins with a match against Denmark in Copenhagen on November 26. Spain and Ukraine are also in England's qualifying group.

ENGLAND SQUAD: J Amaechi, N Austin, M Gottfried, B Basler, R Baker, S Bucknall, S Cheung, A Gardiner, C Hasiam, D Hallman, R Huggins, I McKinney, I Whyte, P Scantlebury.

Wimbledon record

■ **TENNIS: Wimbledon, buoyed by the performances of Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman, increased its profits by 6 per cent this year to a record £31 million. The tournament's surplus is handed to the Lawn Tennis Association, to be reinvested in the sport. The figure next year could be even higher if Rusedski and Henman continue to improve.**

Dancer party

■ **HOCKEY:** Barry Dancer, the new England coach, has selected 26 players to attend a training camp at Lilleshall next month in the build-up for the men's World Cup in Utrecht, Holland, next May, and the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September. England will also play in the rescheduled Azlan Shah tournament in Kuala Lumpur, starting in February. Squad, page 52

Weir rules out action

■ **RUGBY UNION: Doddie Weir, the Newcastle lock forward, will not be taking any legal action against Marius Bosman, the Mpumalanga forward who stamped on his knee during the British Isles tour of South Africa. Weir said yesterday that he would not pursue the case because of "the relatively short time" he had been out of the game.**

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Alain Levy has been a leading French player for many years, and was in their team for the 1997 Bermuda Bowl. You can see him in action at the 1998 Macallan International Pairs.

Dealer North — East-West game — IMPs

North: ♠1086 ♥A1075 ♦Q2 ♣9872

West: ♠72 ♥632 ♦J87 ♣KJ653

East: ♠KQ94 ♥QJ84 ♦K643 ♣4

South: ♠AJ53 ♥K9 ♦A1095 ♣AQ10

S	W	N	E
—	—	Pass	1 D
Dble	Pass	1 H	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: five of clubs.

Levy was declarer on this hand, when France played Sweden in the 1997 Generali European championship. Many players would pass with the East hand. Sub-minimum three-suiters are often better shown by passing and then doubling for take-out if opponents bid your short suit. When the first club ran round to his ten, Levy could see East probably had most of the rest of the high cards.

He played a spade to the ten at trick two. East won and continued a spade to Levy's jack. Now Levy made a far-sighted play: he cashed the ace of clubs. That squeezed East. If he had discarded a heart, declarer could have cashed the ace of spades and played three rounds of hearts. In practice East threw a diamond, and now Levy ran the ten round to East's king, thus setting up three diamond tricks and enabling him to take nine tricks in all.

☐ After four out of the seven matches, the BBL's Premier League seems to be more or less settled. The Hackett team (Jason, Justin and Paul Hackett, Tony Forrester, Dave Mossop and Tom Townsend) lead with 213 IMPs. Second are Brunner (Michelle Brunner, John Holland, John Armstrong, Danny Davies) with 63.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Prime scorer

One of the great success stories of the Lucerne world team championship was the Ukrainian grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk. Some time previously, Ivanchuk had been considered as a potential future world champion. However, his play has been perennially afflicted by attacks of nerves, which let him down at crucial moments.

However, at Lucerne, Ivanchuk made the huge score on top board of six points from eight possible, including the following decisive win against a defence that has a drawish reputation.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Vladimir Akopian
World team championship, Lucerne 1997

Petroff Defence

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nf6
3	d4	exd4
4	e5	Ne4
5	Qxd4	d5
6	exd6	Nxd6
7	Nc3	Nc6
8	Qf4	g6
9	Be3	Bg7
10	0-0-0	0-0
11	h4	h6
12	Bc5	Be6
13	Bb5	a6
14	Bxc6	bxc6
15	Bd4	f6
16	Bc5	Rf7
17	Rhe1	Bd7
18	Nd4	Qc8
19	Qg3	Nb7
20	Na4	g5
21	Qb3	Na5
22	Qd3	Nb7
23	Re2	Rb8
24	Rde1	Nd6
25	Qg6	Qd8
26	g4	f5
27	gxf5	Nd5
28	Nxc6	Bxc6
29	Qxc6	Qd7
30	Qxd7	Rxd7
31	hxg5	hxg5
32	Re6	a5
33	Ra6	Rd5
34	Rxa5	Nd4
35	Ra6	Nf3
36	Re7	Rbd8
37	c3	Rd1+
38	Kc2	R1d2+
39	Kb3	Rb8+
40	Ka3	Ne5
41	b3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

Brilliant career

Chess fans will welcome the republication of the best games of one of the most ingenious world champions of all time, the Latvian, Mikhail Tal. *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal* (published by Cadogan) contains 100 games by the man who was world champion in the period 1960-61, with notes by Tal himself.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

VERRUCOSE
a. Talking too much
b. A dandelion laxative
c. Warty

VESPIARY
a. Evening service
b. A flotilla of motor scooters
c. A wasps' nest

BATHYBIUS
a. A diving bell
b. Deep sea gunge
c. A Roman from Morocco

RONION
a. An adiposely challenged female
b. A kidney
c. A turncoat

Answers on page 54

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is a variation from the game O'Kelly - Speelman, Cambridge v Middlesex 1971.
Although Black is a whole rook down, he has excellent attacking chances along the h-file. He could now have forced a quick checkmate. Can you see how?

Solution on page 54

هكذا من الاصل

CRICKET: LARA SNARED IN FAMILIAR TRAP ON DAY OF DOMINANCE BY PAKISTAN

West Indies surrender to Mushtaq and Wasim

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PESHAWAR

WEST INDIES ended the opening day of this first Test naked with embarrassment. They took a wicket before the close, when Walsh had Sohail caught at slip, but only after their had surrendered their first innings for 151. On a flat pitch, after winning the toss, that was a disgraceful performance.

At one stage, even as modest a total as 151 appeared beyond them. The lunch score was 29 for four and, shortly afterwards, they were 58 for seven. It was left to David Williams, the wicketkeeper, and the fast bowlers to cobble together some late runs, a point that Walsh undoubtedly made afterwards to his under-achieving batsmen.

Lara, once again, led the list of failures. The manner of his dismissal, caught at gully as he carved an expansive drive early in his innings, will surprise nobody in Australia. McGrath dismissed him there so often last winter that he confessed that the pleasure of taking Lara's wicket was partly undermined by its utter predictability.

Wasim Akram shaped the Australia ploy to his own design. In the fourth over of an excellent opening spell, he tempted the batsman with a wider ball that he held back a touch, and Lara's flawed stroke found a delighted catcher in Mushtaq Ahmed, falling to his left. That was the third wicket that West Indies lost to the new ball, and the most significant moment of the day.

Nobody enjoyed himself more than Mushtaq. That catch filled his sails nicely and he went on to pick five pockets with his wrist spin, finishing with five for 35. None of the batsmen played him with much assurance and, when Hooper and Ambrose belted sixes down the ground, they were strokes of defiance rather than mastery.

Mushtaq has now taken five wickers in a Test innings on eight occasions. Only Arshad Khan, who was making his Test debut, went wicketless. Wasim claimed the most notable prize and there were two wickets apiece for Shahid Nazir, the 19-year-old, who was preferred to Waqar Younis, and Azhar Mahmood, a handy all-rounder in the making.

Play began half an hour late, because of the heavy carpet of dew on the outfield, but there were no tricks in the pitch. The bounce was even and there was little to encourage Wasim and Nazir to bang the ball in. How then did West Indies get into such a pickle?

The answer lay mainly in Wasim's masterful performance. Off no more than 12 paces, bowling with a delightful rhythm and bounce, he swung the ball both ways, and offered the batsmen no margin for error. He might easily have had Stuart Williams leg-before first ball and saw two other appeals turned down before he fooled Lara.

It was superlative fast-medium bowling from one of the great modern cricketers who, on this evidence, has put his serious shoulder injury a long way behind him. In that first burst, he took one for 12 from eight overs, five of them maidens, and, by his example, inspired his young partner.

Nazir looks a likely lad. He generated decent pace from a loose, springy action, and swung the ball out. Williams gifted him a wicket with an awful attempted drive but Chanderpaul was bowled two balls later by one of full length that he played all round.

If neither Chanderpaul nor Lara provides an innings of substance, it is clear that this side will struggle for runs. So it proved here. Campbell was surprised to be given out leg-before but Simmons misread Mushtaq's googly in comical fashion and Hooper, the gifted shotmaker who rarely makes big scores at this level, was taken at short leg on the sweep. Lewis, on his debut, offered the worst shot of all, an ugly swipe across the line.

Had Moin Khan held on, when Mahmood found the inside edge of Williams's bat, the innings would not have reached 100. Williams, who had made one at the time, added 30 more to be the top scorer, and after some fun and frolics towards the end, Mushtaq closed proceedings with another leg-before decision awarded by Said Shah, standing in his first Test.

The day was not over. Pakistan were in the fifth over of their reply when the umpires offered the batsmen the light. It was odd, to say the least. The sun was setting and there was blue sky overhead but, however disappointed the spectators were, none of them could say they had not had their money's worth.

MUHEIUDDIN HAMEED

Lewis, making his debut for West Indies, is comprehensively bowled by Mushtaq

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S C Williams c Moin b Shahid	4
S L Campbell lbw b Mushtaq	15
S Chanderpaul b Shahid	0
B C Lara c Mushtaq b Wasim	3
C L Hooper c Mohammad b Mushtaq	26
P V Simmons b Mushtaq	1
†D Williams b Azhar	31
R N Lewis b Mushtaq	4
I R Bishop b Azhar	20
C E L Ambrose lbw b Mushtaq	30
*C A Walsh not out	9
Extras (lb 6, nb 2)	8
Total (60.3 overs)	151

FALL OF WICKETS 1-9, 2-9, 3-16, 4-29, 5-45, 6-50, 7-58, 8-108, 9-129

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 14-6-29-1; Shahid Nazir 10-1-32-2; Azhar Mahmood 14-2-35-2; Mushtaq Ahmed 18.3-7-35-5; Arshad Khan 4-1-14-0

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Saeed Anwar not out	10
Aamir Sohail c Lara b Walsh	4
Ijaz Ahmed not out	0
Extras	0
Total (1 wkt, 4.3 overs)	14

Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Wasim, †Moin Khan, Azhar Mahmood, Mushtaq Ahmed, *Wasim Akram, Shahid Nazir and Arshad Khan to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-10

BOWLING: Ambrose 2.3-0-9-0; Walsh 2-1-5-1

Umpires: D Shepherd (England) and Said Shah (Pakistan)

Adams holds more talks

CHRIS ADAMS, who will next week decide which of a number of interested counties to join, has held talks with Nottinghamshire.

Adams, 27, has finally been granted his wish to leave Derbyshire and is wanted by a number of counties, including Sussex, who have offered him the captaincy, and Kent.

Alan Ormrod, the Nottinghamshire manager, said: "As far as we can tell, we were happy with the way it went. The encouraging thing from our point of view is that Chris says his decision will be based on cricket first and foremost." Nottinghamshire have already signed Paul Strang, the Zimbabwe leg spinner.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 53

VERRUCOSE
(c) Covered in wartlike growths. This is a suitably inscrutable word for cursing under the guise of blessing. "Bon voyage, Harriet. May your path be smooth, your mind ever active and your hands ever verrucose."

VESPIARY
(c) A nest of wasps, from the Latin *vespis* a wasp. It makes a good inscrutable curse for Harriet to reply with: "May your place of work in the daytime be as a humming hive, and in the evenings may your household be a vespiary."

BATHYBIUS
(b) A gelatinous deposit, dredged up in mud from the lower depths of the ocean. It was at first thought to be organic, but is now known not to be. If you are unlucky enough to get into the bathroom after your younger brother, this is a good word to describe the black line of scum that he leaves around the sides of the bath for you to scrape off.

RONION
(a) Also *ronyon*. A term of abuse for a woman, found in Shakespeare (*Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Macbeth*, "'Aroint thee, witch!" the rump-fed ronyon cries.") Webster derives it the French *rogne* (scab or mange) and suggests "scabby, mangy". But Sam Johnson, more convincingly in view of Shakespeare's "rump-fed ronion", relates it to the French *rognon* the loins, and renders "fat, bulky".

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Qh2+! 2 Kxf3 Qh5+ 3 Kg2 f3+ 4 Kg1 Rh8 and mate follows.

TELEVISION CHOICE

MI5's shadowy origins

Timewatch: The Gentlemen Spies
BBC2, 9.00pm

Hitherto secret documents released to the Public Record Office this month provide the raw material for this documentary on the early years of MI5. Given the nature of the subject, much still remains shadowy though the film does its best to illuminate the role of one of the organisation's founding figures, Vernon Kell, who in true cloak-and-dagger fashion was known as "K". MI5 was established in 1909, as a security service with the job of protecting Britain from spies coming in from abroad. With the outbreak of the First World War, these spies were mostly German. Veterans of those days, now in their late 80s, recall the extraordinary secrecy surrounding their work. If asked what he did, one MI5 man used to say he was a civil servant. This was guaranteed to make the questioner lose interest.

Cutting Edge: The End is Nigh
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Most of us know no more about the Jehovah's Witnessess than that they knock on our doors, flourish the *Watchtower* and tell us that the end of the world is imminent. Now comes an inside view, thanks to the organisation's decision to allow television cameras into its activites for the first time. The film does not take a view about the theology, which is based on a strict reading of the Bible. Instead it dwells on the human aspect. The Witnesses, it emerges, are something of a marriage market. Certainly, members are expected to find partners from within, which is how Matthew, a computer programmer, met Mauritza, a Cuban-born former circus acrobat. We also meet Rachel, who left the Witnesses during her teens but has returned, as she prepares for communal baptism at Twickenham rugby ground.

Auntie — The Inside Story of the BBC
BBC1, 10.30pm (Wales: 11.00; N.I.: 11.05)

To call the 1970s the golden age of BBC television, as this programme does, is debatable. The label is much better applied to the mould-breaking 1960s. Still, a decade that produced *Fawlty Towers* and *Yes, Minister* cannot be that lacking in quality. And the BBC was certainly getting the audiences.

Fawlty Towers's staff (BBC1, 10.30pm)

The Good Life, a likeable but unexceptional sitcom, was watched by 28 million people. The 1980s were more difficult, not least because the BBC found itself in a running battle with a Thatcher Government which disliked the principle of the licence fee and was incensed by coverage of the Falklands War, the IRA and the United States bombing of Libya. All this is recalled in the final programme of a workmanlike series which curiously comes to a full stop in 1987.

Savage Earth
ITV, 10.40pm

The eruption of Mount St Helens in Washington State in 1980 is the centrepiece of the first of four documentaries on volcanoes and earthquakes. Although *Savage Earth* overlaps with Channel 4's *Raging Planet*, which also covers great natural hazards, the material is strong enough to justify the project. The programmes mix easily digested science with vivid human testimony. Graphics show how collisions between tectonic plates lie at the root of volcanoes and earthquakes, while survivors describe being rescued from the brink of death. Although, given the location of the plates such eruptions are predictable, once they are launched nothing can be done to stop their progress. Even evacuation may not be enough. Almost all the 57 people killed at Mount St Helens were outside the supposed danger zone. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Dracula: A Birthday Tribute
Radio 2, 9.30pm

Although *Dracula*, *Frankenstein* and the rest leave me cold (so to speak) there are millions among us for whom horror is not only a dramatic compulsion but also one with literary justification. I understand the second point better than the first for Bram Stoker's classic, whose publication 100 years ago is the excuse for this programme, undoubtedly has literary merit. Daniel Farson, great-nephew to Stoker, presents this tribute to the book that has apparently inspired no fewer than 400 film versions, of which I have managed to miss at least 398. Christopher Lee is of course in the programme, reading book extracts, and there is a visit to the Whitby Dracula Society, which held a centenary weekend this summer.

Nicky Campbell
Radio 5 Live, 9.00am

The first hour of this show is always a phone-in but today it has a special interest for Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells and all the other people who consider the BBC to be one of their most prized possessions (not unreasonably, considering that they finance it). The guest in the phone-in slot is John Birt, the Director-General of the BBC, who will be answering questions put by listeners: readers who get to this space early in the morning and would like to ask Birt what on earth ... etc should call 0500 909693. Birt does not appear on the airwaves very often but he is doing this show to mark the 75th anniversary of the BBC this month. Campbell can be relied upon to ensure that Birt answers the questions properly. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley. Includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** Digital Update **8.40** John Peel. Includes Man or Astroman in session **10.30** Charlie Jordan **1.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Richard Stilgoe's Classical Gas **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** Tickling the Ivories (4/6) **9.30** Dracula: A Birthday Tribute. See Choice **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** John Terrett

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme **9.00** Nicky Campbell. See Choice **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra with David McNeil **7.30** The Tuesday Match. Includes Derby v Newcastle, Leeds v Reading, Liverpool v Grimsby and Arsenal v Coventry **10.00** News Talk with Nigel Cassidy **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark **7.00** Chris Evans **10.00 (FM)** Robin Banks **(AM)** Graham Dene **1.00pm (FM)** Nick Abbot **(MW)** Nicky Horne **4.00** Russ 'n' Jono **7.00 (FM)** Paul Coyte **(AM)** Calmin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: The Handmaid's Tale **7.30** Frankenstein **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Concert Hall **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** The Deal with Drugs **9.30** Literature File: The Mill on the Floss **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** On Screen **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** What Do Christians Believe? **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Health Matters **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack Hit List **3.00** News; News in German (648 only) **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Westway **3.30** The Greenfield Collection **4.00** News **4.15** Wildtrack **4.30** The World Today; News in German (648 only) **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **M15.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** One Planet; News in German (648 only) **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** Megamix **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Live **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Megamix **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** The Farming World **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Discovery **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** One Planet **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today **5.00** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann. Includes Morning March and Breakfast Baroque **9.00** Henry Kelly. Includes the Classic Masterpiece and a recipe for sausage and bean casserole **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones **2.00** Concerto. Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Includes travel, sports and business news plus Three Steps to Seven **7.00** Newsnight. Arts issues and news updates, with John Brunning **7.30** Sonata. Beethoven (Violin Sonata No 1 in D) **8.00** Evening Concert. Shostakovich (Festival Overture); Ronald Corp (Cornucopia); Orff (Carmina Burana) **10.00** Michael Mappin. Includes at **11.35** Nocturne **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Delius (The March of Spring, North Country Sketches No 4); Bach (Concerto in D minor for three harpsichords); Arne (The Lover's Incantation, The Winter's Amusement); Britten (Rejoice in the Lamb); Paganini (Cantabile in D); Ibert (Symphonic Suite, Paris)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Falla (Nights in the Gardens of Spain); Quantz (Flute Sonata in B flat) Canteloube (Songs of the Auvergne, Set 2)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with John Toal. Includes Chabrier (Joyeuse Marche); Ravel (Bolero); Chabrier (Danse Slave, Fete Polonaise); Franck (Redemption); Haydn (Piano Trio in D); Roussel (Sinfonietta for String Orchestra)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Anthony Marwood, violin, Carole Presland, piano. Stravinsky, arr Dushkin (Suite Italienne); Tchaikovsky (Sérénade Mélancolique); Schnittke (Quasi una Sonata)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Alexander Titov and Martyn Brabbins, with Kathryn Stott, piano. Schumann (Overture Manfred); Britten (Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge; Piano Concerto); Dvořák (Symphony No 7 in D minor)
4.00 Voices: Introducing Marco Lazzara. The young Italian countertenor makes his British with Iain Burnside, piano. Meyerbeer (Le Ricordenze. Rossini (O Mia Madre (Giovanna d'Arco). Faure (Après un Rêve; En Sourdine. Debussy (Trois Melodies de Verlaine. Respighi (O Falce di Luna; Nebbie; Soupir. Mascagni (Serenta (r)
4.45 Music Machine. Verity Sharp meets one of Finland's many amateur choirs
5.00 In Tune, with Sean Rafferty. Includes a look at the Tony Award-winning musical *Chicago*, starring Ute Lemper, which opens tonight
7.45 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century). The first of six recitals celebrating the flowering of the arts in Paris in the early years of the century. Rolf Hind, piano. Includes Berners (Three Funeral Marches); Debussy (Pour les Agréments; Pour les Degres Chromatiques; Pour les Arpéges Composées); Prokofiev (Piano Sonata No 3, From Old Notebooks); Satie (Préludes Flasques; Véritables Preludes Flasques) **8.20** Brilliant Creatures: Peggy Guggenheim **8.40** Concert, part two. Poulenc (Mouvements Pérpetuels); Satie (Avant-Dernieres Pensées); Stravinsky (Three Movements from Petrushka)
9.30 Postscript: Tales from the Stacks (2/5)
9.45 BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gidon Kremer, violin. Lindgren (Oeje); Saariaho (Violin Concerto, Graal Theatre); Hillborg (Liquid Marble)
10.45 Night Waves. Richard Coles reports on Valo — a six-week festival of Finnish culture at the Barbican
11.30 Composer of the Week: Ligeti (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather introduces a set from the Bristol-based Andy Hague Quintet
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Call Ed Stourton
10.00 (FM) Mean Times Australia. True stories from Australia's past and present. Harold Lasseter's body was found in the Australian desert in the 1930s. Buried near by were letters in which he claims to have found a reef of gold (5/6)
10.00 (LW) Daily Service
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Women's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 All in the Mind. Professor Anthony Clare poses the question: Is counselling good for you?
12.00 You and Yours, with Margaret Collins
12.25pm Booked! The dons from *The Godfather* contact memories of mother love and take an anger management course, while Barbara Cartland's *Love Lifts the Curse* gets a new beginning and ending **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 Thirty Minute Theatre: The Etiquette of Friendship, with Cathryn Harrison. Old friends marry but regret it
2.30 Mirrored in Music. Andrew Green talks to the Israeli cellist Matt Haimovitz (3/6)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift. Presented by Claire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan sees a film based on George Orwell's novel *Keep the Aspidistra Flying*, starring Richard E. Grant. Plus a collection of Hoiub the Rampage
4.45 Short Story: Handel's Trumpeter, by Ifor Thomas
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Imperial Palace. Arnold Bennett's classic novel set in the 1930s, dramatised by Peter Ling. There is staff unrest at the hotel. With Robin Ellis, Derek Waring and Colleen Prendergast. (3/4) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 File on 4. Maurice Walsh assesses the chances for peace in Sudan
8.00 Science Now, with Peter Evans (r)
8.30 The Network. Alun Lewis returns with the series about communicabon and technology and asks how computing power is catering for those in search of spiritual enlightenment
9.00 In Touch, with Peter White
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Clothes They Stood Up In. Written and read by Alan Bennett, abridged by Gillian Hush. Mrs Ransome meets a young man who solves the mystery. (7/7)
11.00 Mediumwave. This week's events in the media (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Sentimental Journey. Arthur Smith travels to Havana to relive Arthur Scargill's previous visits to this last bastion of communism in the Caribbean (1/6) (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Bright Lights, Big City, by Jay McInerney (2/9) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.56am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Out of control on the highway of hyperbole

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

If you're not an expert about what happens under a bonnet (the Austin-Healey type, rather than Jane Austen), then when you watch a programme like **The Car's The Star** (BBC2), which is peppered with jargon about V8s and differentials, you always come away not knowing the answer to the one technical question that is uppermost in your mind: namely, is Quentin Willson demented?

Quentin — who plays Sundance Kid to Jeremy Clarkson's Butch Cassidy on *Top Gear* — gets very, very excited about cars. Last night he got excited about the Corvette.

But there always *seems* something unauthentic about Willson's fizzy enthusiasm. Partly this is because Willson's excitement resembles that of the playground nerd who has just latched on to whichever craze all the cooler boys at school are currently hooked on. And partly it's because of the way Willson conveys his excitement: he uses lots of words, but not necessarily in the right order.

"They say," he told us, "that if America could be expressed in terms of metal, plastic and chrome, it would look a lot like a Chevrolet Corvette" — "they", presumably, being the inmates of Willson's local lunatic asylum. Already beginning to overheat dangerously, he added: "For Americans this car is more sacrosanct than JFK or the Declaration of Independence." Not *as* sacrosanct, mind you; but *more*.

As for the delivery, it makes you wonder if Willson is the secret lovechild born of a one-night stand between Alan Whicker and Jeremy Clarkson's mother. The stresses are in those places located only (expertly) by Whicker and (preposterously) by those train stewards who announce over the Tannoy that "the buffet car *IS* now open for the sale *OF* light refreshments".

If anyone still harboured any doubts that Willson had bought a home-study course (six cassettes plus accompanying book containing step-by-step guide to Whicker diction), they only had to hear him say: "Make no mistake about it: Main Street America loves the Chevrolet Corvette. And that *IS* because it *IS* a star-spangled, patriotic statement that America, was, is, and will be, larger than life. *[Allow for Whicker-style pause here]*. And very. Very. Noisy."

As it happens, Willson also aims for a Whicker-style script. And misses. In the first programme of the series he called the E-type "*a racing car in a miniskirt*": you don't need to be Freud to know that, if anything, it was a racing car in a posing pouch. *This time he offered:* "The Corvette 1959 shows us an America so gorged on pleasure it had forgotten the itch of desire."

Like a car with the accelerator down to the floor, Willson's hyperbole soon gained frightening speed. "The '63 Stingray hit *[just insert your own stresses at random intervals]* the market like a thunderbolt. These were the Cold War years, remember. This car was *perfect for a belligerent American* psyche. Something that looked like it could be put in a rocket launcher and aimed at Moscow." But then the hyperbole needle swings so far to the right that it slaps the end of the dial: "If you want to understand about America and Americans, then here you go. Six generations of her favourite icon. And it's all here: America's power, her paranaoia, her confidence, optimism, wealth and isolationism. The Chevrolet Corvette tells us more about the American way than a whole freight train of history professors." Hello?

I only hope Willson was sensible enough to call a taxi rather than drive himself home after swallowing whatever it was that produced that fantastic hallucination.

But Channel 4's **Movers And Shakers: Car Wars** showed us that not all men are so pathetic that they will spend their adult lives revving sports cars up and down motorways. Some men are so pathetic that they will spend their adult lives revving sports cars up and down their bedrooms. Scalextric (motto: "The game that's always spelt wrong") is motor-racing for men who ache to drive around in an E-type picking up "chicks", but who settle for driving a three-inch long Ferrari that even a Barbie doll would snigger at.

It was easy to mock, which may be why the makers of this documentary did, especially when Richard Hardie in South Wales told them that his 1,000 Scalextric cars had provided "a very important stability in my life. When things go up and down, you can lose yourself, you can be Graham Hill. My wife thinks I'm a complete idiot." She's not the only one.

Should Willson have been watching **Land of the Tiger** (BBC2), he would have seen Valmik Thapar, the Indian author and conservationist, showing how you *can* go over the top with your script and still not be shot down — *provided viewers detect some* sense of passion there.

As the cameras sifted the Indian sub-continent for a few jewels of wildlife — some langur monkeys here, elephants swimming there, a snow leopard in the Himalayas — Thapar told us that he has been tracking India's tigers for many years, "yet I still thrill to the splendour of these magnificent beasts". It takes a while for your ear to get used to the sound of a traveller on television who can still "thrill to the splendour" of anything without feeling self-conscious or lending the phrase an ironic, smart alec undertow.

The photography is bewitching. It's possible that once in the remaining five weeks of this series, Thapar will look us in the eye and say coolly: "It's all here: India's power, her paranoia, her confidence, optimism, wealth and isolationism. The tiger tells us more about the Indian way than a whole freight train of history professors." But I doubt it.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (20505)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (25963)
9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (5513586)
9.25 Style Challenge (5525321)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (9621073)
10.30 Change That (8939875)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (7810925)
11.35 Real Rooms (6564906)
12.00 News (T) and weather (6200857)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (3812875)
12.35 Give Us A Clue (2229654)
1.00 News (T) and weather (28050)
1.30 Regional News (64340166)
1.40 The Weather Show (59891031)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (44353499)
2.05 Quincy (r) (2913944)
2.55 Wogan's Best of Blankety Blank (7930437)
3.30 Playdays (8171789) **3.50** Arthur (8175505) *4.15 Fudge* (5610186) **4.35** It'll Never Work (1787789) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5421012) **5.10** Byker Grove (T) (9372012)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (830499)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (383)
6.30 Regional News (963)
7.00 Holiday The Costa de la Luz, Israel, Fort Lauderdale, the Cotswolds and the Isle of Wight (T) (5296)
7.30 EastEnders The two women in Ian's life threaten to tear him apart (T) (147)
8.00 Mysteries with Carol Vorderman Featuring a man who dreamt about the winner of the Grand National and won a fortune (T) (4944)
8.30 A Question of Sport Chelsea's Frank Leboeuf, athlete Kelly Holmes, boxer Steve Collins and golfer Darren Clarke join captains John Parrott and Ally McCoist (T) (3079)
9.00 News (T) and weather (5031)
9.30 Rory McGrath's Commercial Breakdown A look at commercials using cuddly animals. Last in series (T) (91321) **WALES: 9.30** Week In, Week Out (91321) **10.00** Rory McGrath's Commercial Breakdown (52944) **10.30** One Foot in the Grave (61692) **11.00** Auntie: The Inside Story of the BBC (815505) **12.05am** FILM: Once Around (907364) **2.00** News (5261677) **2.05** BBC News 24 (3928242)
10.00 One Foot in the Grave The Meldrews return from an overseas holiday to find their home has been burnt to the ground (r) (T) (52944)
10.30 **Auntie — The Inside Story of the BBC** Insight into the BBC's so-called golden years, 1970 to1986, which saw conflict with the Conservative Government and the introduction of some of the BBC's classic programmes, including *Yes Minister*, *Fawlty Towers*, *EastEnders* and Radio 4's *Today*. Last in series (T) (3118470)
11.35 Once Around (1991) Romantic comedy about an Italian-American woman (Holly Hunter) who falls for pushy salesman Richard Dreyfuss during a Caribbean jaunt. Directed by Lasse Hallstrom (469321) Followed by Weather
1.30am BBC News 24 (65093)

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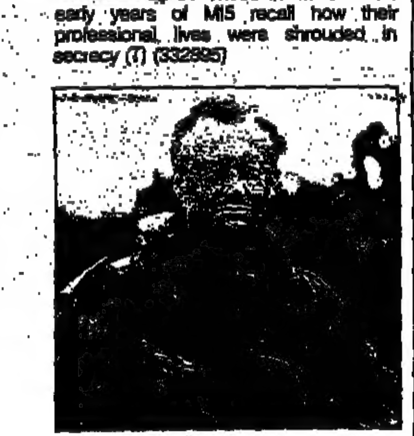
BBC2

6.00am Arts: Victorians and the Art of the Past (41586) **6.30** Richard II (96963)
7.00 See Hear: Breakfast News (T and signing) (3688073)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (4984296) **7.40** Smurfs' Adventures (r) (2268437) **8.05** Blue Peter (r). (T) (2848234) **8.30** *Oakie Doke* (r) (4547789) **8.40** Rupert (r) (9631470) **8.45** The Record (9534215) **9.10** Practising Belief (5094073) **9.25** See You, See Me (2111470) **9.45** Numbertime (4421944)
10.00 Teletubbies (r) (87215) **10.30** Watch (2068483) **10.45** Science Zone (2333012) **11.05** Space Ark (8260234) **11.15** Megamaths (T) (1555147) **11.35** History File (8364988) **12.00** See Hear (r) (T) (59857)
12.30pm Working Lunch (86499) **1.00** Fiddley Foodle Bird (r) (56662334) **1.10** The Art and Antiques Hour (6371128) **2.10** Going, Going, Gone (62441079) **2.40** News (T) (3383128) **2.45** Westminster (T) (7040857) **3.25** News (T) (8988234) **3.30** The Village (r) (741)
4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (876) **4.30** Through the Keyhole (r) (1789760) **4.55** Esther (9536215) **5.30** Today's the Day (352)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (r) (853876)
6.25 Heartbreak High (T) (834012)
7.10 The O Zone (217470)
7.30 From the Edge In-depth reports on issues affecting disabled people (T) (789)
8.00 University Challenge Oxford Brookes take on Warwick University (T) (2586)
8.30 Food and Drink Antony Worrall-Thompson prepares spiced chicken breasts with lentils; reduced-alcohol drinks; and traditional Cumbrian dishes (T) (4321)
9.00 Timewatch: The Gentlemen Spies Those involved in the early years of MI5 recall how their professional lives were shrouded in secrecy (T) (332895)



Sir Hew Pike rejoins the ranks (9.50pm)

9.50 Back to the Floor Lieutenant-General Sir Hew Pike samples life in an armoured personnel carrier (T) (516906)
10.20 Best Friends Two women tell the story of their enduring friendship (T) (604383)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (178741)
11.15 Seinfeld George and former classmate Diane hit it off, but only after Jerry tells her he's a leading marine biologist (T) (212789)
11.40 *The Larry Sanders Show* A clash of opinion threatens to bring the show to its knees (T) (433505)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (1045838)
12.25am Weather (7018819)
12.30 Learning Zone: The Making of Peter Snow (5675432) **12.35** Architecture in Britain (63635) **2.00** Modern Languages (37426) **4.00** Deutsch Plus 1-4 (49109) **5.00** Business and Training (31242)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4085876)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (5501741)
9.55 Regional News (T) (6028470)
10.00 The Time, the Place (74741)
10.30 This Morning (T) (48304215)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (6299741)
12.30 News (T) and weather (2255079)
12.55 Shortland Street (2223470) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (57898893) **1.50** The Rockford Files (5672296) **2.50** Vanessa: My Partner's A Flirt (T) (8684031)
3.20 News (T) (8983789)
3.25 Regional News (T) (8975760)
3.30 The Riddlers (3807708) **3.40** Wizadora (1189760) **3.50** The Adventures of Paddington Bear (1185944) **4.00** Zzzap! Autumn Special (9945654) **4.15** Hey Arnold! (T) (3610906) **4.40** The Ward (T) (9843789)
5.10 WALES: Don't Try This at Home Kids! (9834963)
5.10 Relative Knowledge (9834963)
5.40 News (T) and weather (378055)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (840302)
6.25 Regional Weather (726383)
6.30 Regional News (T) (401)
7.00 Emmerdale The Woolpackers return from Australia (T) (3692)
7.30 WALES: Your Century: Aberystwyth (215)
7.30 Take 3 Current affairs series (215)
8.00 The Bill Boyden and Blake are assigned to investigate the horrific death of an alcoholic (T) (9012)
8.30 The Cook Report Exposing more dodgy businessmen and practices (T) (8147)
9.00 Soldier, Soldier Hobbs is determined to go out with a bang during an inspection of the barracks (T) (7741)
10.00 News (T) and weather (47012)
10.30 Regional News (T) (576499)

Mount St Helens erupts (10.40pm)

10.40 Savage Earth: Hell's Crust First in a new series examining the restless planet we live on, beginning with the eruption of Mount St Helens in Washington State (T) (643470)
11.40 WALES: The Wacky Weekly World News (904418)
11.40 Wham! Bam! Poetry Slam! (904418)
12.10am The Making of a Life Less Ordinary (5088068)
12.35 Planet Mirth (7924428)
1.05 Late and Loud (6867093)
2.05 The Chart Show (r) (6541726)
3.00 Football Extra (r) (4110987)
3.50 World of Sailing: Aquatonic Skiff Grand Prix, Round 3 (r) (56572242)
4.20 Sound Bites (40588548)
4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (93619616)
5.00 Heirloom (r) (98779)
5.30 News (61616)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2223470)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9834963)
6.25-7.00 Central News (122789)
7.30-8.00 The Tuesday Special (215)
11.40 Central Sports Special (470370)
12.45am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (6773600)
1.20 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (2771161)
1.40 War of the Worlds (5854600)
2.30 The Paul Ross Show (9735838)
3.55 Central Jobfinder '97 (8047172)
5.20 Asian Eye (9103884)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6299741)
12.55 Home and Away (7227031)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (79327031)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9834963)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (81944)
7.30-8.00 Blooming Marvellous: On the Road (215)
11.40 Highlander (893708)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9834963)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (609)
6.30-7.00 Relative Knowledge (401)
7.30-8.00 Ambulance! (215)
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (893708)
5.00am Freescreen (98779)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (2223470)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9834963)
6.23 Anglia Weather (727012)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (122789)
7.30-8.00 Crown and Country (215)
11.40 Midweek Kick-Off! Coca-Cola Cup action (893708)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (18673)
9.00 Ysgolion (508760)
11.30 Powerhouse (9234)
12.00 Sesame Street (44925)
12.30pm Ricki Lake (32645)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (40367942)
1.15 Pingu (45317447)
1.30 Munro (84333875)
1.40 Film: Seven Thieves (15175215)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (437)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (944)
4.30 United Tastes of America (128)
5.00 5 Pump: Uned 5 (1470)
5.30 Countdown (708)
6.00 Newyddion 6 (213234)
6.10 Heno (680128)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (978079)
7.25 Y Brodyr Bach (227128)
8.00 Portreadau: Aneurin Jones (7654)
8.30 Newyddion (6789)
9.00 Y Palmant Aur (5383)
10.00 Brookside (484654)
10.35 Frasier (550875)
11.05 Equinox (604741)
12.05am Streets of Fire (6195529)
1.05-2.05 Witness (6865635)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (13215)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (18673)
9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (T) (5506296) *9.22 Lost Animals* (1962470) **9.30** Eureka! (T) (4428857) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (4416012) **10.00** Fourways Farm (4513383) **10.10** TVM (T) (2818627) **10.25** How We Used to Live (T) (7668924) **10.45** Quest (T) (9713316) **11.00** First Edition IV (3348234) **11.15** Stage One (T) (3338857)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (9234) **12.00** Sesame Street (44925) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (90321) **1.30** Gardens Without Borders (r) (T) (84324128) **1.45** What on Earth (59807692)
1.55 Sailor of the King (1953, b/w) Jeffrey Hunter, Michael Rennie, Wendy Hiller and Bernard Lee star in this Second World War drama directed by Roy Boulting (82085895)
3.30 Collector's Lot (T) (437) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (944) **4.30** Countdown (T) (1781128) **4.55** Ricki Lake (T) (9521383) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (708)
6.00 Moviewatch Film magazine presented by Johnny Vaughan (321)
6.30 Roseanne *The Connors compete to see who can come up with the scariest Hallowe'en costume* (r) (T) (673)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (341147)
7.55 Golden Oldies *Another couple celebrate* their golden wedding (652789)
8.00 Deals on Wheels Advice on buying a second-hand car (2/6) (T) (7654)
8.30 Brookside Will Cassie accept Mick's offer? Will Jacqui go back on her word? (T) (6789)

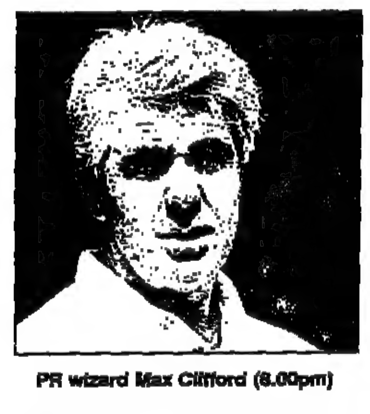
Religion divides a family (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE ***Cutting Edge: The End is* Nigh** Two stories of love among the Jehovah's Witnesses (T) (5383)
10.00 *Underworld* *Black comedy series* starring James Fleet and Susan Wooldridge. Susan and William reeling *from their encounters with the criminally* insane escape to the relative calm of Margate (T) (2611505)
11.05 Rory Bremner — Who Else? (r) (T) (425321)
11.45 The Living End (1992) starring Mike Dytri and Craig Gilmore A road movie *that challenges the presentation of HIV* and contemporary gay issues Directed by Greg Araki (T) (131296)
1.20am Late Night Ricki Lake (r) (T) (6172155)
2.05 The Bureau (1/4) (r) (T) (6345123)
3.05 Carl Hiaasen's Miami (r) (73149093)
3.30 Letter from America with Christopher Hitchens (r) (T) (56866635)
4.00 Schools: Making Sense of Science (4169797) **5.15** Planning for Primary RE (8850548)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt decoder** will *be able to receive the channel free of* charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (2550857)
7.30 Milkshake (4213499) **7.35** Stickin' Around (r) (6807050) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (6198875)
8.30 WideWorld Documentary series on *human migration. How people have been* moving from the land to the cities in Brazil for 150 years (8/10) (7548316)
9.00 Espresso (2595302) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (8692654) **10.30** Period Rooms (r) (T) (7643960)
11.00 Leeza (7257708) **11.50** Double Espresso (94431708) **12.00** *The Bold and the* Beautiful (T) (3948352) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (8437741)
1.00 5 News 1.05 Sunset Beach (T) (3226215) **2.00** 5's Company (8294383)
3.30 Anastasia: The Mystery of Anna (1986) Conclusion of the made-for-television *historical drama begun yesterday*, starring Amy Irving as the woman who claimed she was the sole surviving *member of the Russian Royal Family*. Directed by Marvin J. Chomsky (8401925)
5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (13689302) **5.30** Whittle (T) (3681963) **6.00** 100 Per Cent (3688876)
6.30 Family Affairs Holly announces that she wants to come out of the closet (T) (3679128)
7.00 Exclusive Entertainment news (5260302)
7.30 Dwellers of the Deep The advancing Queensland coastland (T) (3668012)



PR wizard Max Clifford (8.00pm)

8.00 Vanessa's Day With Vanessa Feltz spends a day with the PR guru Max *Clifford* (T) (5279050)
8.30 5 News (T) (5265857)
9.00 Tornado! (1996) with Bruce Campbell and Shannon Sturges. Made-for-television drama about a scientist who develops an early-warning tornado detector. Noel Nosseck directs (T) (61099470)
10.35 The Jack Docherty Show The guests are Eddie Izzard, Murray Walker and Gary Barlow (6453944)
11.20 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3975760)
12.20am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine including motorsport and *football action from the Latin American* leagues (37742074)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco starring Karl Malden (T) (7320277)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2583567)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (999383) **9.00** Hotel (30876) **10.00** Another World (42654) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (62418) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (45166) **1.00pm** Geraldo (21586) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (28586) **3.00** Jenny Jones (21012) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (48147) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (2741) **6.00** Dream Team (8031) **6.30** Married ... with Children (9322) **7.00** *The Simpsons* (3470) **7.30** Real TV (8895) **8.00** Rescue Paramedics (9418) **8.30** Coppers (8925) **9.00** World's Scariest Police Shootouts (73963) **10.00** The Extraordinary (76050) **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (45383) **12.00** Late Show (45277) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (43762) **2.00** Long Play (5340529)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.05am Memories of Me (1988) (26364505) **7.50 Dreamer** (1979) (34739986) **9.30 The Return of Tommy Tricker** (1994) (33544418) **11.15 The Guru** (1969) (886789) **1.15pm Memories of Me** (1988) (930012) **3.15 Looking for Trouble** (1996) (25975302) **5.00 Guarding Tess** (1995) (55550) **7.00 The Road to Galveston** (1996) (72895) **9.00 Stolen Youth** (1996) (32128) **10.30 Exquisite Tenderness** (1995) (94821499) **12.15am Love Potion** (1989) (152987) **1.50 Hostile Force** (1996) (934864) **3.30 Barcelona** (1994) (759616)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.30am Scudda Hoo! Scudda Hay! (1948) (74536) **8.00 Transformers: The Movie** (1986) (40708) **10.00 Slattery's Hurricane** (1949) (35789) **12.00 I.Q.** (1994) (25031) **2.00pm The Left-Handed Gun** (1958) (65944) **4.00 Transformers: The Movie** (1986) (5215) **6.00 Seduction in a Small Town** (1996) (16645) **8.00 Family of Cops** (1995) (77437) **10.05 Broken Arrow** (1996) (886168) **12.00 White Tiger** (1996) (155074) **1.35am Behind Closed Doors** (1994) (771631) **3.15 The Heartbreak Kid** (1993) (138109) **4.45 Off on a Comet** (1979) (1380161)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Angel Face (1953) (1014789) **6.00 Nadine** (1987) (2598128) **8.00 Kung Fu — the Movie** (1986) (2593673) **10.00 Sea of Love** (1989) (9494944) **11.55 Frantic** (1988) (3218895) **1.35am Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer: Murder Takes All** (1989) (4374726) **3.35 Nadine** (1987) (89487278) **4.55** Close

TNT

9.00pm Take Me Out to the Ball Game (1949) (8345944) **11.00 The Seven Hills of Rome** (1958) (84350692) **1.00am The Barretts of Wimpole Street** (1934) (84318616) **3.00 Reckless** (1984) (31865635) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (12437) *7.30* Football League Review (91944) **8.00** V-Max (15988) **8.30** Sports Centre (65429) **9.00** Racing News (23079) **9.30** Aerobics (29741) **10.00** Spanish Primera Liga (49506) **12.00** Aerobics (65465) **12.30pm** FA Cup (58115) **2.30** Spanish Primera Liga (96470) **4.30** Extreme Sports (2012) **5.00** Wrestling (7215) **6.00** Sports Centre (3505) **6.30** Tartan Extra (4857) **7.00** Grand Slam of Golf (737470) **10.00** Sports Centre (15924) **10.30** The Footballers' Football Show (88760) **11.30** Tartan Extra (61215) **12.00** Grand Slam of Golf — Live (3865345) **4.00am** Sports Centre (57242) **4.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (9797115) **7.30** Sports Centre (1161550) **8.00** Racing News (6989499) **8.30** Fish TV (9273321) **9.30** Football League Review (4835429) **10.00** NHL (4930073) **12.00** V-Max (6982586) **12.30pm** Grand Slam of Golf (8869789) **4.30** Golf: Praia Del Rey European Cup (9274050) **5.30** V-Max (9788437) **6.00** Sports Unlimited (5360514) **7.00** Sports Centre (2438031) **7.30** Derby County v Newcastle United — Live (5705760) **10.00** Golf: Praia Del Rey European Cup (2326050) **11.00** Boxing (9264437) **12.30am** Sports Centre (3554277) **1.00** Coca-Cola Cup (4960345) **2.30** Sports Centre (1091168) **3.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling (62799673) **1.00** Fish TV (62708321) **2.00** Big League Classics (84340215) **3.30** Tennis: National Championships (16498963) **4.30** NHL (10282708) **5.30** Survival of the Fittest (55822470) **7.00** Fish TV (30862147) **7.30** Rugby Union. Emerging England v All Blacks — Live (35862128) **9.30** Fish TV (62790302) **10.00** Superbouts (89287166) **11.00** Golden Moments of the Olympic Games (84257505) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Olympic Games Magazine (86012) **8.00** Equestrianism (56031) **9.00** Bobsleigh (18147) **9.30** Speedworld (42944) **11.00** Eurogoals (37499) **12.30pm** World Cup Dream Team (25925) **1.00** Tractor Pulling (53708) **2.00** World Cup Qualifiers (28906) **4.00** Truck Racing (80789) **5.00** 4x4 Off Road (3876) **5.30** Offroad Magazine (88234) **6.30** Freeride (9925) **7.00** Bodybuilding (78401) **8.00** Boxing: Steve Robinson v Alric Johnson — Live (20695) **10.00** World Cup Legends (39942) **11.00** Equestrianism (83925) **12.00** Sailing (46345) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Worzel Gummidge (6343073) **7.35** Neighbours (8261166) **8.00** Crossroads (3036654) **8.25** EastEnders (1423031) **9.00** The Bill (8973418) **9.30** Howards' Way (9903876) **10.00** Bless This House (6228234) **10.30** The Sullivans (8962302) **11.00** Boon (4172708) **12.00** Crossroads (14743234) **12.25pm** Neighbours (14747321) **12.55** EastEnders (1099031) **1.30** Hi-De-Hi (3370166) **2.10** 2point4 Children (7826418) **2.50** Last of the Summer Wine (2575741) **3.30** The Bill (7898654) **4.00** Juliet Bravo (78849499) **5.05** EastEnders (6865128) *6.40* Bob's *Full House* (7296050) **6.25** That's Showbusiness (6220654) **7.00** Last of the Summer Wine (4577147) **7.45** The Liver Birds (1010906) **8.20** 2point4 Children (1768418) **9.00** The Bill (1673383) **9.30** Spender (89479654) **10.40** French and Saunders (9102401) **11.20** Canned Carrot (1124128) **12.00 FILM: Victim of Rage** (1993) (6779109) **1.45am** Miami Vice (3780703) **2.35** Shopping (22951529)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (7568370) **7.00** Coronation St (8221857) **7.30** Families (8233692) **8.00** Blind Date (9248234) **9.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (8939499) **10.00** The Professionals (8239876) **11.00** Hart to Hart (8219012) **12.00** Coronation St (4866578) **12.30pm** Families (2768437) **1.00** Blind Date (2756992) **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (9322692) **3.00** Donahue (9585128) **4.00** The Professionals (9507963) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (1405321) **6.00** Families (2549963) **6.30** Coronation St (2530215) **7.00** Blind Date (7101012) **8.00** Hart to Hart (7110760) **9.00** Coronation St (3508147) **9.30** Hale and Pace (2748673) **10.00** Hawaii Five-O (7100383) **11.00** Close

Ellen Barkin and Al Pacino in *Sea of Love* (Sky Movies Gold, 10pm)

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00pm Gridlock (30657215) **5.30** Hey Dad !! (55956437) **6.00** Blockbusters (55946050) **6.30** A Country Practice (55937302) **7.00** *My Two Wives* (30677079) *7.30 Our House* (55933586) **8.00** Desmond's (30653499) **8.30** Young Guns (30665234) **9.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon (89339383) **10.00** The Price (89332470) **11.00** St Elsewhere (84307692) **12.00** Let the Blood Run Free (15898548) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (34547109) **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo's Circus **6.30** Under the Umbrella Tree **7.00** Aladdin: The Series **7.30** Quack Pack **8.00** Dinosaurs **8.30** Bonkers **9.00** Gummi Bears **9.30** Groundling Marsh **9.55** Microscopic Milton **10.00** Sesame Street **11.00** Winnie the Pooh **11.15** Rosie and Jim **11.35** Sing Me a Story with Belle **12.00** Tots TV **12.20pm** Disney Animated Shorts **12.25** The Big Garage **12.45** Winnie the Pooh **1.00** Sesame Street **2.00** Madison's Adventures — Growing Up Wild **2.30** Gummi Bears **3.00** Tale Spin **3.30** Goof Troop **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa **4.30** Aladdin: The Series **5.00** Gargoyles **5.30** Dinosaurs **6.00** Blossom **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** *Home Improvement* **7.30** The Wonder Years **8.00 FILM: The Prisoner of Zenda Inc 9.35** Home Improvement

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Defy and His Friends **6.30** Billy the Cat **7.00** Pinocchio **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo **8.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** The Magic Bov **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Inspector Gadget **10.30** Samurai Pizza Cats **11.00** Sweet Valley High **12.00** Ace Ventura **12.30pm** Casper **1.00** The Tick **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Mortal Kombat **4.30** Mortal Kombat **5.00** The Tick **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** Sweet Valley High **7.00** Close

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Bobby's World **7.00** Spirou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Bots Master **9.00** Art Attack **9.30** Earthworm Jim **10.00** Gravedale High **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Gravedale High **12.30pm** Bots Master **1.00** Batman **1.30** Eek **2.00** Spirou **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Sonic **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Art Attack **5.00** Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes **6.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Neverending Story **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wincie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas **12.00** Paddington Bear etc **12.30pm** Little Red Tractor etc **1.00** Dr Seuss **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Animal Show **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Rocko/Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Ready or Not **1.00** Madison **1.30** California Dreams **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** 9-2-5 **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Saved by the Bell **4.30** USA High **5.00** Hangtime **5.30** California Dreams **6.00** On the Make **6.15** Teenage Urban Adventurers **6.30** Madison **7.00** Hangtime **7.30** USA High **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wits **5.30** Say the Word **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** $64,000 Question **8.00** Split Second **8.30** Move on Up **9.15** Winner Takes All **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** Whittle **12.00** Say the Word **12.30am** Hart to Hart **1.30** Big Valley **2.30** Big Brother Jake **3.00** Boogies Diner **3.30** Where I Live **4.00** Snowy River: The McGregor Saga **5.00** Shopping

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team (6303741) **9.00** Tour of Duty (6323505) **10.00** Red Shoe Diaries (9709166) **10.45 FILM: Superstition** (1982) (4218708) **12.45am** Tour of Duty (7110266) **1.45** Red Shoe Diaries (1315682) **2.30 FILM: To Live and Die in Hong Kong** (1989) (4934432) **4.30** The Head (6087971) **5.00** The A-Team (6233277)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (6586) **7.30** Roseanne (1383) **8.00** Ellen (5234) **8.30** Cybill (4741) **9.00** Cheers (82147) **9.30** Taxi (41963) **10.00** Frasier (15806) **10.30** Kenny Everett (11234) **11.00** Festival of Fun (87692) **11.30** Ellen (69857) **12.00** Roseanne (59819) **12.30am** Nightstand (29180) **1.00** Soap (96068) **1.30** Taxi (15695) **2.00** Festival of Fun (37432) **2.30** Grace Under Fire (56567) **3.00** Frasier (72432) **3.30** Kenny Everett (47819)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (4482031) **9.00** Dark Skies (4403895) **10.00** *Making of Alien: Resurrection* (7473944) **10.30** The Making of the Rides' Terminator II — 3D (7482692) **11.00** Friday the 13th (2795031) **12.00** Sightings (6548074) **1.00am** Twilight Zone (6467884) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (5574664) **2.00** Dark Shadows (1921616) **2.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (1933451) **3.00** Friday the 13th (7572155) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Joy of Painting (8964760) **9.30** *Garden Club* (9901418) **10.00** Great Gardening Plot (6226876) **10.30** New Yankee Workshop (6960944) **11.00** Rex Hunt (1691789) **11.30** Hometime (1692418) **12.00** Close Guide (8951296) **12.30pm** This Old House (9905234) **1.00** Just for Starters (4174166) **1.30** Our House (9904505) **2.00** The Furniture Guys (6141573) **2.30** Room for Improvement (7812079) **3.00** Two's Country (6160708) **3.30** Home Again (7884296) **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Diceman (7898031) **4.30** Driving Passions (7892215) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (6132925) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (7816895) **6.00** The Great Opportunist (9980925) **7.00** *World of Strange Powers* (6152789) **7.30** Disaster (7893944) **8.00** Discover Magazine (6316215) **9.00** Raging Planet (6336079) **10.00** ER — The Real Drama (6339166) **11.00** Working on the *Pop Man* (4151215) **12.00** Flightline (3749345) **12.30am** Driving Passions (5412819) **1.00** Disaster (6155180) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (2843432) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Worlds Apart (7202234) **7.30** Outer Bounds (5986012) **8.00** Eagles (3572760) **9.00** A Journey into Flight (3589296) **10.00** Children of the Sun (3562383) **11.00** Gold *Diggers of the Uplaka* (4115215) **12.00** Worlds Apart (3330161) **12.30am** Outer Bounds (9470762) **1.00** Close

TRAVEL (cable)

12.00pm *Travel Live* **1.00** Ridge Riders **1.30** Cities of the World **2.00** Worldwide Guide **2.30** Bruce's American Postcards **3.00** Railway Adventures Across Europe **3.30** Wet and Wild **4.00** Snow Safari **4.30** On the Horizon **5.00** Around Britain **5.30** Pathfinders **6.00** Aspects of Life **6.30** Innocent Abroad **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** Reel World **8.30** Snow Safari **9.00** Destinations **10.00** Greg's World **10.30** On the Horizon **11.00** Oceania **11.30** On the Road to the Islands **12.00** Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Swastika Over British Soil (7431321) **5.00** Civil War Journal (2437302) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (5380514) **7.00** Biography: Richard the Lionheart (2334079) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD (cable)

12.00pm Food Network Daily **12.30** Alive and Cooking **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Aldo's Italian Job **2.00** Chef for a Day **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Antony's Scotland **3.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **4.00** For Better, for Worse **4.30** A Taste of the Caribbean **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** I Dream of Jeannie **9.30** The Gordon Elliott Show **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** The Young and the Restless **11.50** Brookside **12.20pm** Why Me? **1.00** Tempest **1.50** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.30** Cheap Chic **3.00** Live at Three **4.05** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Lucky Ladders **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Hearts Afire **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00 FILM: That Magic Moment** **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

6.30am Paatuku Oru Paatu **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** Business **8.00** ZEE Business and Music **8.30** Raahat **9.00** Revathi **9.30** Health Show **10.00** Parivartan **11.00** Shahi Dawat **11.30** Baat Ban Jaye **12.00** Sailaab **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00 FILM 3.30** Gaane Anjaane **4.00** Quiz Contest **4.30** Pop Item **5.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** Naya A-Z **6.00** Hum Paanch **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News **8.30** Daraar **9.00** Hum Aap Ke Hain Woh **9.30** Ilke Pe Ikka **10.00** Tara **11.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **12.00** Close

MTV

The 24 hour music channel

VH-1

The video hits channel

هكذا من الاصل

TENNIS 50
Challengers line up to take on Hingis

SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 53
San Francisco book place in play-offs

Cricketers pitch into debate

Alan Lee finds players demanding more involvement in the running of the game

In Australia, inordinate financial demands are being reinforced by the stark threat of strike action. In England the claims are more moderate, the language less shrill but the message is the same. Cricketers are shedding the dated traditions of mute subservience and seeking a voice and influence to match their profile in the game.

Unused to being questioned from the shop floor, English administrators have reacted sensitively to the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of the country's players to debate the new domestic structure, a decision being augmented by the organising of a formal ballot on the issue. Now, they must address fresh implications as the players turn their attention to other contentious areas.

In the coming weeks, their representatives will call for profound changes in contract regulations, focusing on worrying trends concerning the position of players' agents and the creation of a covert transfer system. They are also to pursue their case for a more equitable share of the game's central revenue to fund their own affairs.

David Graveney, general secretary of the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) and spokesman for the country's players, believes a close dialogue with the establishment is imperative to avoid the impasse that has occurred in Australia. "We are entering an important year that will dictate the way the game is conducted in the future. We all have to choose where we want to go from here and everyone must do some listening."

Graveney is keen to distance his own players from events in Australia, where the players' startling demands for 50 per cent of the game's income, almost half of which would go directly to the small elite of the international squad, is causing such discord. "They have a stand-off between players and administrators, with delegates breaking off talks and walking out of meetings.

"I like to think we have a far better relationship with our Board but the PCA exists on a relatively small annual grant that takes no account of increased revenue and we are seeking a more formal basis of funding. We are expanding our scope for the good of all and this is the difference between being old enough and responsible enough to run our own business rather than asking our elders for pocket-money.

"Talk of strike action seems to be cheap in Australia and people are inferring that the same could happen here after our EGM next May. Technically, of course, it is an option if the players feel strongly enough but on the structure issue and other pressing areas, we are looking for constructive discussions rather than issuing threats."

Graveney was struck by the force of feeling against the hastily compromised playing programme agreed by the counties in September and, specifically, by the hardening of players' support for two divisions in the county championship.

If the counties who make up the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) are bracing themselves for a challenge on this matter, however, they must also prepare to consider the players' opinions on reforming the increasingly abused regulations governing transfers.

A four-man working party, involving Graveney and Tim O'Gorman for the PCA and Steve Coverdale and Mike Vockins for the ECB, will meet shortly to discuss the whole area of player movement and the thrust of the PCA proposal will protect the counties' investment in their young players while arguing for freedom of movement for cricketers over 25.

"We don't want players to be completely free agents. That would destroy the game," Graveney said. "We need counties to be compensated if they lose a young player, because otherwise they will simply abandon their youth policies, which would be disastrous. Equally, we need to reflect modern times and acknowledge that players no longer regard a one-club career as the norm. We have to ask if the List One and List Two method is still workable."

The increasing power of agents worries Graveney and, again mirroring the PFA, he would like each would-be agent to pay a bond to the game to establish his credentials. Alternatively, he suggests the PCA could perform the role itself and "act as intermediaries between players and counties to stop money flowing out of the game in agents' fees."

The latest "career move" by Chris Lewis, who has rejoined Leicestershire from Surrey, and the ongoing saga of Chris Adams have intensified concern over agents and spiralling salaries. Graveney said: "The current system means that the best way to make money from the game, for a player and his agent, is to keep moving around, and that cannot be healthy. There is obvious potential for damage in the dressing-room if one player is paid twice as much as anyone else and I fear some clubs are also ignoring the harsh lessons of other sports and spending money they haven't got.

"The most important element in all that we discuss must be that a 15-year-old boy, faced with alternative sporting careers, chooses cricket and never regrets it. At the moment, that is not happening often enough."

West Indies surrender 54

Canoeists head for troubled waters

By John Goodbody

A LEADING canoeing coach is leading a campaign to stop Britain's top competitors being forced to use the slalom course at the national watersports centre at Holme Pierrepont, near Nottingham, where polluted water has caused many people to suffer stomach upsets.

Members of the British Canoe Union have been urged to pass a resolution at the annual meeting on Saturday to allow competitors to take part in trial races on other courses and not to be obliged to use Holme Pierrepont.

Jim Jayes, a leading coach, is protesting that national squad members are being asked to sign a statement sent by Alan Edge, the national coach, reading that "the issue of water quality at Holme Pierrepont should not be used as a reason to prevent the site being chosen as a venue for GB team and squad selection events".

In 1995, the course was closed five times because of pollution and the Sports Council (now the English Sports Council) funded a study by the medical school at Nottingham University. This found that there was "a significant rate of gastro-intestinal illnesses after using the slalom course".

However, one of the five authors, Dr Simon Dawson, who is a canoeist, said yesterday: "There is a problem, but it is minor compared to those in other sports. We should not overstate the case."

Dr Keith Neal, another of the authors, accepted that there was a health hazard but said that competitors had to balance that against the excellent medical support available at Holme Pierrepont to deal with accidents.

Brian Pluckrose, the centre's manager, pointed out that the course had only been closed three times this year because of pollution, and one of these was a diesel spill. Until August, there had only been 20 reported cases of illness from the 30,000 users of the slalom course this year. The centre now has computerised equipment to monitor pollution.

Ferguson moves for Chile striker

United consider £20m record deal for Salas

By David Maddock and Matt Dickinson

MANCHESTER United have been asked to pay a world-record transfer fee of £20 million for Marcello Salas, the Chilean striker who plays for the River Plate club in Argentina. Negotiations between the two clubs were opened after Alex Ferguson, the United manager, watched Salas play for Chile on Sunday. It is understood that Maurice Watkins, a United director, has travelled to Argentina to try to agree a fee.

Ferguson saw Salas score in the 3-0 victory over Bolivia, a result which gave Chile a place in the World Cup finals. The manager has remained in South America and will not return to his office until Thursday. But already there have been difficulties. River Plate want to make a £13 million profit on Salas, but with taxes in Argentina that would require an outlay of £20 million by United.

Martin Edwards, the club chairman, has indicated he is only prepared to pay half that fee.

Ferguson, though, confirmed that his interest in the player is strong. "Italians, Spanish and German players all want to come to England, and I think it shows it is the best league in the world," he said. "I believe Salas could play there without any problem. He is a goalscorer and a very good player, and everyone is interested in players like that."

Now Watkins must reduce the asking price for the 22-year-old. United's hand may have been strengthened by the fact that Juventus, of Italy, were also interested in the Chilean, but are not prepared to pay such a huge figure.

River Plate have recently been playing the two European clubs off against each other, but the Italians have withdrawn from the bidding. Without an auction, United are far more likely to persuade River Plate to be more reasonable in their demands.

Ferguson has been pictured on national television in Argentina, where he confirmed that the goalscorer's prowess has impressed him. Reports in the Argentinian media suggest that United have a reasonable chance of reducing the fee. Edwards confirmed yesterday that negotiations have started between the two clubs, and Watkins will continue talks this week. If there is movement closer to United's valuation, then Edwards will fly out to conclude the deal, possibly as early as this weekend.

Salas could be joined on the World Cup stage next summer by several players from the FA Carling Premiership who might have only dreamt of it before Jamaica's qualification on Sunday. Frank Sinclair, of Chelsea, Marcus Gayle, of Wimbledon, Danny Maddix, of Queens Park Rangers, and Chris and Darryl Powell, of Derby County, head the list of targets that the Jamaican Football Federation will be sounding out as potential Reggae Boyz as they plan the next stage of their remarkable adventure.

After the success of the first batch of English recruits, notably the Derby striker, Deon Burton, who has become the country's sporting idol, do not be surprised to find a queue of Premiership footballers at Somerset House this week anxiously checking for West Indian descent as Jamaican immigrants the world over rediscover a lost allegiance.

Gayle, whose Wimbledon team-mate, Robbie Earle, is already part of the Jamaica squad, has had preliminary talks.

There is also the issue of incentives: Earle, Burton and the Portsmouth pair, Fitzroy Simpson and Paul Hall, are already planning holiday homes on the plots of land given to each member of the successful squad by P. J. Patterson, the Jamaican Prime Minister, along with help with building costs, as reward for qualification.

The issue of new recruits is, though, a delicate one for Rene Simoes, the Brazilian who coaches Jamaica. He is wary of upsetting a nation which has been united as never before thanks to its football team, the country closing down yesterday for a national holiday to mark the unprecedented achievement of reaching France next summer.

"I have to be careful," he said. "I know there are other players in England that can be selected, but I want to get the approval of the existing squad. The country must have pride in their team and we have to get the balance right."

Jamaica had hoped their preparations for France would include a friendly game against England at Wembley. "Obviously we would love to play at Wembley and maybe with many Jamaicans in England, they can apply some pressure," Simoes said yesterday. "We are coming to Europe for the World Cup draw and we have many offers to discuss."

However, Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the Football Association, claimed yesterday that England's itinerary was too full until next year at the earliest.

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Coca-Cola rethink 52
Sultan of soccer 52

World Cup party, page 52

Salas, right, celebrates the goal that he scored on Sunday which helped Chile through to the World Cup finals

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1254

ACROSS
1 A grain: Archie —, *The Entertainer* (4)
3 Irish emblem (8)
9 Patient line (5)
10 Elan, dashing style (7)
11 Encroach (7)
12 Decisive moment: puzzle (4)
14 Bird house (6)
16 Soak up (6)
18 By remarriage (4-); pace (4)
19 Gaunt: a hawk (7)
22 Vampire Count (7)
23 African republic, cap. Kinshasa (5)
24 Anxiety of uncertainty (8)
25 Canvas shelter (4)

DOWN
1 Repayment (of good, bad deed) (8)
2 Coaster cargo *(Masefield)* (5,3,5)
4 Feeder chute: kangaroo? (6)
5 Taxi to phone for (7)
6 Fairy story start (4,4,1,4)
7 Lament: eager (4)
8 College administrator (4)
13 Following orders (8)
15 Wild enthusiasm (7)
17 Garden cutters (6)
20 Stare fixedly (4)
21 Quantified likelihood (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1253
ACROSS: 1 Habitual 5 Tiff 8 Plane 9 Shrivel 11 Foe 12 Armadillo 13 Ladder 15 Landau 18 Remission 19 Hoe 20 Snippet 21 Lives 22 Toga 23 Sentinel
DOWN: 1 Hopeful 2 Blame 3 The game is up 4 Assume 6 Invalid 7 Folio 10 Redgauntlet 14 Dumping 16 Utensil 17 Virtue 18 Resit 19 Haven

Larder switches to join union

By Christopher Irvine

THE man who wrote the official rugby league coaching manual was yesterday named as the surprise choice to work alongside Clive Woodward, the England rugby union coach, for the forthcoming matches against New Zealand and South Africa. For Phil Larder, preparing the England team to face the mighty All Blacks on Saturday will be a huge leap from coaching Huddersfield YMCA.

Larder was the Great Britain rugby league coach a year ago and, last May, he was dismissed after seven months at Sheffield Eagles. He struggled to find employment, but has now been given a chance by the Rugby Football Union (RFU). If all goes well, it will consider him for a role as national development officer to work with elite players.

His appointment was news to the Rugby Football League (RFL), where Larder was director of coaching for nine years until 1992, and brings the number of coaches in the England set-up under Woodward to four.

"Phil brings a wealth of experience with him from a code which I respect and from which, I believe, we can learn and incorporate into our game," Woodward said.

Until six months ago, Larder, 52, had had nothing to do with union since he turned professional in 1968 with Oldham. Even yesterday, his name was still being linked with the coaching vacancy at Leeds.

On leaving Sheffield, Larder applied for a rugby union coaching course, has helped at Sale, under John Mitchell, the director of rugby and England assistant coach, where Larder once played as a centre. Since the start of the season, he has been coaching Huddersfield YMCA, his local club, who are unbeaten at the top of Yorkshire Two.

As qualifications for coaching England go, however, Larder's experience is not exactly extensive. A former teacher, born in Oldham, he played both codes at school and union for Broughton Park, Loughborough University, Manchester and Sale, before a 12-year stint in league for Oldham and a spell at Whitehaven.

His development at the RFL of the national coaching scheme helped to bring several young British coaches to prominence. He left his desk in Leeds to take charge of Widnes and, within a year, became the first non-Australian in four years to coach a team to a Challenge Cup final.

Keighley Cougars won the second division and divisional premiership titles under his guidance in 1995, the same year that he was appointed on a two-year international contract.

England beat Australia in the opening match of the 1995 World Cup, but Larder was criticised for his tactical intransigence when the result was reversed in the final. Despite a 3-0 whitewash for Great Britain in New Zealand 12 months ago, Larder varied his tactics little during the series, but he will bring valued technical assistance to Woodward in his new role.

Larder: new coaching role

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University challenge, page 53